Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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Sablan: Probe will put BOOST fiasco to rest. PAGE 2
'All clear' for Saipan, Tinian, Rota. PAGE 3

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR/
With the assistance of the U.S. Navy, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, third from left, and special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Franklin Babauta, second from right, early yesterday conducted an assessment of the island of Rota after Typhoon Bolaven made its closest point of approach Tuesday night. Also in photo are Harry Elliot IV, left, of the U.S. Navy and Federal Emergency Management Agency Craig Browning, right and Teresa Serata, FEMA IMAT Region 9 team lead, second left.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Inset, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios makes an aerial inspection of Rota aboard a U.S. Navy helicopter.

Bolaven more forgiving than Mawar

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

With Rota just getting back to its feet after the onslaught of Typhoon Mawar in May, the island is comparatively fortunate in that Typhoon Bolaven didn't cause as much damage to the island, according to Mayor Aubry Hocog yesterday.

See BOLAVEN on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- Red Cross better able to respond to Rota post-Bolaven. **PAGE 3**
- US Coast Guard reopens commercial ports in wake of Typhoon Bolaven. **PAGE 5**
- FEMA urges residents in Bolaven's path to remain cautious. **PAGE 5**

IN SINKING OF *JAMBALAYA*

'If we were BOOSTed, this wouldn't have happened'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI's beloved *Jambalaya*—which used to provide charters to Mañagaha—was wrecked after waters rose due to the approach of Typhoon Bolaven. According to *Jambalaya*'s owners, if they had just been awarded the BOOST grant they

See BOOST on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The *Jambalaya* foundered after waters rose during the approach of Typhoon Bolaven.

FERDIE DELA TORRE
File photo of the Latte Quarry, also called Taga Stone Quarry, in As Nieves, Rota.

Rota's Latte Quarry up for National Historic Landmarks designation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The National Park Service's National Historic Landmarks Program Committee will consider five nominations, including the Latte Quarry at As

See ROTA on Page 4

PSS classes resume tomorrow

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

With Typhoon Bolaven continuing to move away from the CNMI, all Public School System classes will resume tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 13, while all PSS staff will report to work today, Thursday, Oct. 12.

Interim Education commissioner Donna M. Flores said in a memo yesterday that all PSS staff, including 190-day

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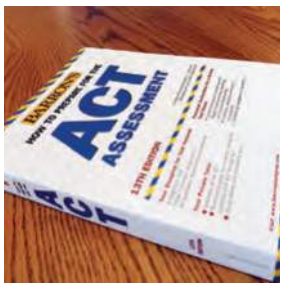
INSIDE

LOCAL
The Marianas Experience at T Galleria in Garapan has been delighting visitors and residents since July 2023.
PAGE 5



NATION
High school students' scores on the ACT college admissions test have dropped to their lowest in more than three decades.
PAGE 12

ASIA
Peace between Taiwan and China is the "only option," Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Tuesday.
PAGE 13

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Local

Sablan: Probe will put BOOST fiasco to rest

» Yumul says ex-Finance chief Atalig hasn't been subpoenaed yet

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

Yumul

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) looks forward to helping put to rest the fiasco surrounding the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together Program.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the ad-hoc committee that is looking into the matter, said Monday that they have yet to subpoena former Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig to compel to testify before the committee that is investigating the BOOST Program.

Yumul said the committee, called the Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding, is first issuing what's called "Letter 1309" to different agencies.

A Letter 1309 in the Commonwealth Code refers to the acquisition of information by other lawful means.

During the committee's meeting last Thursday, Sablan thanked Yumul and vice chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) for including him in this committee. Although he was a member of the 22nd Legislature, he said he was not a member of the joint House committees that started the probe into the BOOST Program.

Sablan said that some members of the special committee earlier alluded that there are a lot of legitimate businesses that have been here in the Commonwealth for more than two decades, but were not given the opportunity to receive BOOST funds. He said these are the businesses that went through the ups and downs of the CNMI economy.

Yet he noted that some businesses that were awarded BOOST Program money just started their business on the same year when the program was opened.

"And I am willing to put all these issues to rest. And I look forward to working with all of you," he added.

Aside from Sablan, Yumul, and Propst, the other members of the special committee are Reps. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), Angelo Atalig Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho (D-Saipan), Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), and Vincent Seman Aldan (Ind-Saipan).

BOOST was a project of the previous Office of the Governor, Department of Finance, and Department of Commerce that aimed to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations.

DUE TO ARPA FUNDS REALLOCATION

'Civil Service unable to fully fulfill outstanding obligations'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Due to the reallocation of its American Rescue Plan Act funds, the Civil Service Commission is currently unable to fully fulfill its outstanding obligations, according to CSC chair Raymond M. Muña, who thanked Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) for allocating $2,702 to the CSC account.

DeLeon Guerrero

In a recent letter to DeLeon Guerrero, Muña stated that the latter's support is crucial in meeting their fiscal year obligations.

In his breakdown of CSC's $41,129 total outstanding obligations, Muña said that $909 is for communications; $2,801, utilities; $12,000, office rental; $21,780, travel; $2,702, expense claims; $655, personnel training costs; $173, fuel and lubrication; and $107, operational supplies.

Ensuring the prompt fulfillment of these obligations holds a critical place in advancing the commission's mission, he said.

Muña said DeLeon Guerrero's support has significantly eased the financial hurdles they were encountering.

He emphasized that these funds have been specifically earmarked for essential office operations and staff development, all facilitated through various professional development initiatives made possible by ARPA funds.

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Investigation uncovers possible tampering in Kagman shooting
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‘All Clear’ for Saipan, Tinian, Rota

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has declared the “All Clear” condition for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as of 5pm yesterday, Oct. 11, 2023. Tropical Storm Condition 1 is maintained for the Northern Islands.

Please note the following announcements from CNMI agencies and departments:

Public Schools, NMC, NMTech

■ The CNMI Public School System will be resuming classes on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. PSS personnel will report to work on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, to assist with storm assessment and other activities. A more detailed PSS memo will be distributed through email, the PSS website, social media, and through news outlets.

■ Northern Marianas College will resume classes and regular operations on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

■ Northern Marianas Technical Institute will resume classes and regular operations on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

MARK RABAGO

A maintenance staff boards up the windows of a commercial building where Kylie’s Bakeshop is located in Gualo Rai in preparation for Typhoon Bolaven last Monday.

Government offices

■ Government offices will reopen on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

■ Judiciary regular business hours will resume on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

NAP

The Nutrition Assistance Program Office will resume regular hours Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023. Food Benefits issuance will be conducted from 8am to 3pm. Case Record IDs ending in 6, 7, and 8 will be issued. Please call 670-237-2800 if you have questions.

Public transportation

Commonwealth Office Transit Authority’s Demand Responsive Shared Ride Service will resume services given the “All Clear” condition. For anyone needing reservations, please call the One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center at (670) 236-2682.

CHCC

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will resume regular hours of operations starting Thursday, October 12, 2023.

CHCC Clinics and Outpatient Services:

■ Children’s Clinic
■ Dental Clinic
■ Dialysis Center
■ Environmental Health Disease Prevention
■ Family Care Clinic
■ HIV/STD and TB Program
■ Immunization Clinic
■ COVID-19 Community Testing
■ Laboratory Services
■ Mobile Clinic
■ Oncology Center
■ Outpatient Pharmacy
■ Physical Therapy
■ Rota Health Center
■ Tinian Health Center
■ WIC Clinic
■ Women’s Clinic
■ Community Guidance Center
■ Transitional Living Center
■ Suicide Prevention Program
■ Wellness Clinic
■ Systems of Care

CPA

All regular scheduled flights will resume Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

Seaports on Saipan and Rota are open to all commercial vessel traffic and cargo operations. The Port of Tinian will remain closed until further notice. ***(PR)***

Red Cross better able to respond to Rota post-Bolaven

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross feels it is much better prepared to respond to Rota after the passage of Typhoon Bolaven.

After Typhoon Mawar wreaked havoc on Rota and Guam just a few months ago, the Red Cross is better prepared to respond to those in need following Bolaven, according to Red Cross NMI Chapter director John Hirsch.

“We’ve got a fairly well-trained team on Rota right now and we’re working very closely with the mayor of Rota, Aubrey Hocog. So far, we’ve sent out over four pallets of relief supplies to Rota, which are on Rota right now. This is something we didn’t have prior to Mawar. We are in a much better position now than we were during Mawar. Our volunteers are also highly trained now and better ready to respond. Even the Municipality of Rota, Mayor Hocog has been through this now and she now knows what works so I believe she’s also in a much better place to help the people and respond to the community of Rota,” he said.

Currently, Hirsch said, all Red Cross teams are on full alert and ready to respond as soon as safely possible.

“We’ve got a team of 10 pre-deployed to Guam laying out our plan for relief operations. Also, we’ve deployed six generators to support shelters on Saipan and we will be deploying food and supplies to volunteers on Rota and Tinian. At this point we play a supportive role to the Public School System. We’re providing support to all shelters,” he said.

Once Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declares an all-clear, the Red Cross will activate all volunteers and supplies and roll them out to the islands that need them the most, most likely Rota, Hirsch said.

“As soon as there is an all-clear, Red Cross will activate all its volunteers and all its supplies. Our entire Red Cross program will be rolled out as soon as it’s safe to do so and we will hold distributions, conduct damage assessments, and we’ll be working with families regardless of eligibility. Every person impacted by the storm will be helped,” he said.

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Tel. (670)234-7859 | Fax (670)234-575
Attorney for Petitioner Joseph C. Villagomez

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANDRECINA CHONG VILLAGOMEZ, Deceased.	Civil Action No. 23-0190 NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITOR Date: October 26, 2023 Time: 10:00 a.m. Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANDRECINA CHONG VILLAGOMEZ OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Joseph C. Villagomez** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Andrecina Chong Villagomez, the deceased. The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 5th day of October, 2023.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

ROBERT T. TORRES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
5960 Plata Drive
P.O. Box 500730 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Evelyn Diaz Golden

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	] CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0186
ANTONIO DLG. DIAZ, Decedent.	] NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS] DATE: October 26, 2023] TIME: 10:00 A.M.] JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANTONIO DLG. DIAZ

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **EVELYN DAIZ GOLDEN** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue a Verified Petition to Admit Estate into Probate and Appointment of Administratrix for the Estate of Antonio DLG. Diaz, the decedent. The proposed administrator is **BARBARA T. SABLAN.** The Attorney for the Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive P.O. Box 500730, Saipan MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, **ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law**, at the address above indicated.

Dated this 2nd day of October 2023.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp • Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Friday, October 13, 2023, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (08/31/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson’s Report
  A. Letter from Dental Care Petitioning to Supervise more than Three Full-time Dental Therapists
  B. FY 2024 Annual Budget
  C. Executive Director’s Position (Renewal)
VII. Director’s Report
  A. Financial Report on end of Fiscal Year 2023
  B. Update on Office Operations for FY 2024
  C. Update on Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Regulations
VIII. Investigator’s Report
IX. Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature
  A. Governor’s Office
    1. MEMO From SAA for Fiscal Restraint
    2. Directive 2024-001 – Modified Government Hours for Executive Branch
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
  • Special Ad Hoc Committee Update on Professional Counselor and Social Worker Regulations
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board’s Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. Clinical Psychologist – Request for License Extension
  B. One Physician Application
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Off island
  C. Adjournment of Meeting

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting
October 26, 2023 | 2:00 PM
Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center
Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
  i. Regular Board Meeting – June 29, 2023
  ii. Regular Board Meeting – July 27, 2023
  iii. Regular Board Meeting – August 25, 2023
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

B.I. Old Business

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14923** - American Xiong's Corporation dba Angel Market is proposing amend their Conditional Use Permit File No. 2020-3847 to occupy an area measuring **58'.4" (W) x 33' (L) x 14' (H)** for its “Flower or Floral Shop” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 G 16 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

2. Letter of Request for Time Extension-ABM Auto Repair Shop Evidentiary Hearing. **Zoning Enforcement Notice of Violation #2019-4835** – ABM Auto Repair Shop. The site is located on Lot No. E.A. 368 in the village of Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

B.II. New Business

1. **Conditional Use Application #2023-1149** – Samsung Enterprises, Inc. is proposing to utilize & alter Six (6) Cargo (Ocean Shipping) Container structures for its “Warehousing and General Wholesaling” Use each measuring **40' (L) x 10' (W) x 9'.6" (H).** This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 023 D 87 in the village of Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

2. **Conditional Use Application #2023-1261** – Saipan Cars 670 is proposing to operate a small-scale Auto Rental Office on the first floor of its Single-Family Dwelling measuring **14'.7" (L) x 13' (W) x 7'.7" (H)** for its “Auto Rental Office” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1877-3-2-1 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

3. **Conditional Use Application #2023-1260** – Hemp Factory, LLC. is proposing occupy three units on the first floor of a preexisting Two-Story Commercial building measuring **60' (L) x 45' (W) x 10'.6" (H)** for its “Cannabis Farm” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1826-2 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Report of the Acting Administrator
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
2. Directive 2024-001
3. Proposed House Local Bill 23-XX “To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map sheet 17 of 29 to rezone certain districts to “Tourist Resort”; and for other purposes.”
4. Commonwealth Zoning Board-Zoning Office Renovation Building No. 1334, 1336, 1221 Status Updates.

D. Executive Session

E. Adjournment

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

ROTA

From page 1

Nieves on Rota, for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The NHL Committee is seeking public comment on the nomination and will hold a virtual meeting on Nov. 15 to 16, 2023, from 10am to 4pm (EST), Nov. 16 and 17, 1am to 7am (CHST) to consider the nominations across the country.

According to the NHL, the NPS Preservation Partnership Program in the legacy Pacific West Regional Office, working in cooperation with the CNMI Historic Preservation Office, sought to prepare a nomination for the Latte Quarry based on preliminary analysis as part of a legislatively authorized Special Resource Study.

The Special Resource Study's preliminary findings suggested the quarry warranted consideration for NHL designation.

The NHL executive summary stated that the Latte Quarry will highlight the exceptional cultural and architectural values of latte monuments and their unique cultural symbolism in the CNMI while recognizing the potential to better understand the archeological and cultural history of the Latte Period of the Mariana Archipelago.

NHL said the Latte Quarry is nationally significant under NHL criteria 4 as an outstanding example of latte elements and quarries in the Marianas, exhibiting uniquely massive elements that are the largest recorded to date.

A latte set consists of two parallel rows of pillars formed by placing semi-hemispherical capstones on top of upright shafts, ranging in size from six to 14 pillars and from less than 50cm to 5m in height.

NHL said further study may illuminate the Latte Quarry's association with the mytho-historical figure, Chief Taga, as well as with historic place names and cultural identification of traditional places.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that information to access the meeting and instructions on how to submit comments will be provided by the NHL Committee.

Sablan said the NHL Program recognizes properties of exceptional significance in the nation's history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture.

He pointed out that the designation as a Historic Landmark is not a land withdrawal, does not change the ownership of an area, and does not dictate activity.

Currently, there are two national historic landmarks in the Marianas, both designated in 1985—the Landing Beaches, As Lito/Isley Field and Marpi Point on Saipan; and the Landing Beaches, Ushi Point, and North Field on Tinian.

PSS

From page 1

employees, (excluding substitute teachers, substitute aides, Title 1 staff, high-dosage tutors, and peer tutors) will report back to work today and all PSS school and central offices will open tomorrow.

"We extend our sincere appreciation to all the front-liners who sacrificed their time and efforts to ensure the safety and protection of our community throughout the storm," she added.

Separately, in a news briefing yesterday afternoon at the Commissioner's Office on Capital Hill, Flores said they did an initial check on school facilities in the morning and afformed that there were no damage.

But, as a precaution and for students and staffs' safety, classes are to resume tomorrow instead of today. "This is just to help prepare the respective buildings and school campuses for the students… just to ensure their safety prior to the resumption of school services," said Flores.

"We're so fortunate there's very minimal damage to any of our campuses. Acting commissioner Eric Magofna and I went to most of the campuses early this morning (yesterday morning). We observed the grounds and structures. …It was surprising to see that the grounds were pretty clean," she said.

The only issues they found in some schools were electrical issues, which is part of the reason why they decided to have their school teams do their assessments today.

Flores said school sports that were scheduled to take place this week will be rescheduled to a later date. "There will be no public school sports activities for the rest of the week. That's also because we have kids coming from the other two islands and it's just a bit of an inconvenience for them, considering what's happening and the flights. So, it's just in the best interest of the students just to push it sometime next week or however our athletics director [Nick Gross] will fit it into the schedule."

When asked whether there will be makeup classes for the lost instructional time, Flores said it's the State Board of Education's decision whether or not they will waive it or add school days later.

When asked about the four PSS schools that were used as shelters during the typhoon, she said Kagman High School had the most number. She said an influx of people came in at 9pm Tuesday night.

At KHS, a fuse blew when the power went out at Kagman on Tuesday, but Flores said it won't be an issue in the future. "Fortunately, we have a great partnership with the [Commonwealth] Utilities Corp. and we were able to communicate with them. They went on site and they were able to rectify the issue. However, there's still a couple of minor issues, so that will allow them to come back tomorrow to fix whatever else needs to be fixed."

BOLAVEN

From page 1

In a statement she issued from Rota, Hocog said that, as of yesterday evening, the island has already started recovery efforts to get back to normalcy following the typhoon, which passed just north of Rota and intensified into a super typhoon as it made its way out of the region.

"We're doing good, just getting some rest now. We closed our shelters today after we got the 'all-clear' signal so now we're just going to recuperate a little and we're back to work today. Power went out pretty early last Tuesday evening, but the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. team was activated at around 7am and they were able to fully restore power to the island by the end of the day. We're very fortunate with our CUC team as we now have a sense of normalcy on Rota. We're very grateful for that," she said.

Hocog and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios did an aerial assessment of the island yesterday afternoon and determined that the damage wasn't as significant as it was following Mawar.

"All around, there's no severe damage reported. The most important news is that the people of Rota are safe. There were no fatalities reported and no injuries. That's the most important thing. We had some vegetation damage but it's not as extreme as Typhoon Mawar. We noticed infrastructure wasn't as badly destroyed as Mawar. In terms of government facilities, government heads will be doing their assessments, and we will be collecting all that information in the days to come," she said.

She said no power poles fell, "but we did have some trees fall on some power lines but there wasn't any significant damage to our power lines. Again, thanks to our hard-working Department of Public Works team, they were able to clear those."

Overall, Hocog said, Rota learned a lot following Mawar and was better equipped to manage following Bolaven.

"After Mawar, we learned what works for us here and we have a really good team here and we were able to respond fairly quickly after the storm," she said.

Tinian, which also experienced strong surges of wind and rain as Bolaven passed just south of the island, was also spared from any significant damage.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan shared that all the island has left to do is to clean up the fallen vegetation left by Bolaven.

"The entire island got through the worst of it. We have closed our shelters. People will be going back to work, and all there's left to do is clean up the rest of the island," he said.

As for damage, Aldan said there is no significant damage to infrastructure, but there were some downed power lines that caused a power outage for half of the island. As of yesterday evening, power has been completely restored on the island.

"No significant damage to infrastructure, no one came in to request for an assessment of personal residences. I think the most significant damage reported was that there was a fire early in the morning as the storm passed through. There was a fire at one of the poker parlors. Department of Fire was dispatched to respond to that. I'm not too sure but I'm assuming it was an electrical fire as the establishment was closed during the storm. Power lines had fallen because some nearby trees fell on them so that's when the power died out. Feeder 3 specifically went out, causing the power outage at around 6:30pm. Some parts of the village were without power but fortunately water was up 100% throughout the storm...there are still residences waiting to be reconnected to power. CUC is doing their best to get them back online. They will continue to re-energize the island today," he said.

"I want to thank all the responders for coming out and actively going out to homeowners and farmers in the outskirts of the island to check if they were okay," he added.

An optimistic Aldan said the CNMI has proven time and time again its reliance and joked that the CNMI practically has written the manual on "how to manage after a typhoon."

"The National Weather Service did say we can expect around seven typhoons [this year]. We're now two down, so only five more to go. We got through Typhoon Mawar, Typhoon Bolaven, and now we're just preparing for what's next. This isn't something new to us here in the CNMI. We've technically written the manual for how to deal with typhoons. That said, we here at the Tinian municipality are always here to assist the HSEM with whatever they may need," he said.

As for the entire CNMI itself, no significant damage was reported aside from some vegetation damage and shelters were soon closed following Palacios' "all clear" declaration.

Government offices and schools are expected to resume today.

Advisories

■ Public beaches will continue to be closed until today, Thursday, Oct. 12, due to hazardous surf and weather conditions. Department of Public Safety personnel will be enforcing closures.

■ The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority has resumed their Demand Responsive Shared Ride Service. For anyone needing reservations, call the One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center at (670) 236-2682.

BOOST

From page 1

desperately needed to renovate the vessel, it would not have suffered the way it did.

The *Jambalaya*, a double-decker boat that has been providing charters to Mañagaha for locals and tourists alike since the early 2000s, was found half-submerged in the Saipan lagoon just hours before Typhoon Bolaven passed through the Marianas.

According to the *Jambalaya*'s owner, who agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity, said he and his crew went out on Monday to secure the *Jambalaya* in preparation for the incoming storm.

As part of the process, the *Jambalaya* had to be started. They later found out that, as waters rose because of the approaching storm, water managed to enter through one of the pipes, flooding the vessel and ultimately sinking it.

Yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* spoke with the vessel's owner, who was saddened at the sight of the once-glorious boat that used to contribute so much to the community and the CNMI's tourism industry.

Saipan Tribune noticed that the inside of the boat, which began life as a river paddleboat, was almost completely filled with water and the *Jambalaya* crew was doing their best to get as much of the water out.

The *Jambalaya*, which stopped operating back in late 2019 due to the pandemic, already faced certain problems because it had been stagnant at the Smiling Cove Marina for years, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Pair that with a number of storms that have passed through the Marianas since, it was only a matter of time before something bad happened to it.

However, the owner of *Jambalaya* said he was hopeful when the previous administration rolled out the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST grant program, last year.

"Boats like these need to be dry-docked at least every two years. Because we weren't in operation for years because of the pandemic, we didn't have the money to do this and make necessary repairs. We tried to get loans, but we couldn't put the Jambalaya up for collateral because the bank wouldn't accept it. We were hopeful when we had the chance to apply for BOOST," he said.

Unfortunately, like many other businesses that applied for a grant, the *Jambalaya* was not awarded any money. This, the *Jambalaya*'s owner believes, is the result: the boat's inevitable sinking due to the lack of repairs.

"We were hoping for that. If we were BOOSTed, this wouldn't have happened. We would have been able to make the repairs needed to save this boat. I still don't understand because the *Jambalaya* played a big role in the tourism industry once. We just needed the help to get this boat back up and running," he said.

The *Jambalaya*'s crew is currently trying to make temporary repairs just to get the boat back up from the water but even then, without the funds needed to bring the boat up out of the water, the Jambalaya will continue to deteriorate.

Chamorro, Carolinian practitioners enjoy sharing culture

The Marianas Experience at T Galleria in Garapan has been delighting visitors and residents since July 2023 with free interactive activities highlighting indigenous culture and Marianas history.

For the artists and craftspeople featured, it has also been a source of pride and an opportunity to further perpetuate the Carolinian and Chamorro knowledge passed down to them through the generations.

Thirty-seven-year-old Florence Peter guides visitors in learning to make Carolinian "mwar" (floral head leis), carefully weaving a pattern of bright, tropical flowers—a skill she learned from her grandmother, Amada Olopai Kaipat. The "mwar" is a symbol of respect, affection, and celebration. She hopes the younger generation of islanders will learn the skills she shares with visitors at the Marianas Experience.

"I feel good [about teaching], because if the tourists can learn from me, then our own people can also learn," said Peter. "To keep the culture, we need to teach the little ones growing up, too."

She also performs with the dance group Petlas Marianas.

"It's the excitement of showing what we're performing or telling a story in our song. I feel good when we do it—happy!" she said.

Twenty-eight-year-old Nicole Tyquiengco weaves young coconut fronds to make decorative items, such as fish, headbands, and flowers—her favorite. She also performs with a Chamorro dance group that shares stories about the "galaidi" (canoe) and important value of respect.

MVA

Florence Peter, fourth from right, teaches "mwar" (floral head lei) making on Sept. 28, 2023, at the Marianas Experience at T Galleria on Saipan.

"It makes me feel happy that I can share my culture and what I do with other people," she said.

Brian Rueben, 45, learned the art of printing with banana stalks from the late artist, Doug Rankin, when Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc. was first opened decades ago. Rankin was the first to introduce the painting technique on Saipan. Today Rueben deftly adorns the hands and arms of visitors to the Marianas Experience with small prints of plumeria, hibiscus, turtles, and other images.

"I still carry [Uncle Doug's] artwork," said Rueben, going on to describe in his native Carolinian the reactions of visitors. "They get excited. They ask if cooking banana is the same as eating banana. Really! I invite all visitors to come and experience our culture."

The educational and entertaining experience welcomes the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 1pm to 7pm. Cultural activities are held from 1pm to 4pm, including coconut frond weaving, "mwar"-making, and banana printing art. Live performances of traditional and modern indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian music and dance are held from 4pm to 7pm and opened on July 18, 2023.

Gordon Marciano is managing director of local tour company Pacific Development Inc. and chairman of CCVI, the organization that oversees the cultural practitioners. A long-standing cultural practitioner and coordinator, Marciano sees the Marianas Experience as a rite of passage for the next generation of practitioners engaging with visitors.

"This time around, I'm passing the torch to this generation of practitioners that have been with us," said Marciano. "They've gained so much over the years, and I think it's time for us to start giving them their role in coordinating events."

MVA

Visitors receive flowers woven from coconut fronds by Nicole Tyquiengco, left, on Sept. 28, 2023, at the Marianas Experience at T Galleria on Saipan.

MVA

Brian Rueben decorates a visitor with banana stalk painting on Sept. 28, 2023, at the Marianas Experience at T Galleria on Saipan.

The Marianas Experience is organized and led by DFS Saipan and is located within the T Galleria luxury retail complex in the main tourist district of downtown Garapan.

The Marianas Experience also includes artifacts on display from the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture, features on cultural leaders and traditions presented by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a display of traditional Chamorro and Carolinian sailing canoes, and more. The event is funded by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Attendees will also find locally made items for purchase at the Made in the Marianas Corner, including handmade jewelry by Bonita Basula, apparel by Fotten Gaga, handmade greeting cards by Saipan Snaps, and handcrafted chocolates by Kensington Hotel Saipan.

The Marianas Experience is also supported the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, and 500 Sails. ***(MVA)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Saipan Cars 670

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Cars 670 is proposing to operate a small-scale Auto Rental Office on the first floor of its Single-Family Dwelling measuring **14'.7" (L) x 13' (W) x 7'.7" (H)** for its "Auto Rental Office" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1877-3-2-1 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 26, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00pm, October 25, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pali Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E Office).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661/2/8. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Hemp Factory, LLC.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Hemp Factory, LLC. is proposing occupy three units on the first floor of a preexisting Two-Story Commercial building measuring **60' (L) x 45' (W) x 10'.6" (H)** for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1826-2 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 26, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00pm, October 25, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pali Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E Office).

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/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
for
Samsung Enterprises, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Samsung Enterprises, Inc. is proposing to utilize & alter Six (6) Cargo (Ocean Shipping) Container structures for its "Warehousing and General Wholesaling" Use each measuring **40' (L) x 10' (W) x 9'.6" (H).** This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 023 D 87 in the village of Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: October 26, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00pm, October 25, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pali Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E Office).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661/2/8. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

US Coast Guard reopens commercial ports in wake of Typhoon Bolaven

SANTA RITA, Guam—In a swift response to the passage of Typhoon Bolaven, the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port has officially reopened the crucial commercial ports of Guam, Rota, and Saipan. This decision, effective at noon on Oct. 11, 2023, follows meticulous assessments conducted by our dedicated crews and trusted partners.

The COTP has downgraded the Port Heavy Weather Condition to WHISKEY, signifying the ports' readiness to resume operations from a regulatory and navigation safety standpoint.

USCG urges all commercial operators to collaborate closely with local harbor managers to facilitate safe arrival and departure operations.

It said teams are working to obtain updates from partners on Tinian while simultaneously continuing comprehensive evaluations of local marinas and maritime facilities on Guam, Rota, and Saipan. Initial reports indicate no maritime pollution incidents, a testament to the coordinated preparation efforts of all involved.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to our resilient communities and partners for their preparedness and resilience during this challenging time," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "Our commitment to the people of the Marianas and Micronesia is unwavering. Together, we shall remain vigilant, knowing that extremely damaging November and December storms are not unheard of in our region. History reminds us of the importance of readiness."

Typhoon Bolaven delivered tropical storm conditions to Guam but hit as a Category 2 typhoon as it passed through the channel south of Tinian in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Responding swiftly, Forces Micronesia Sector Guam, Base Guam, DOL-X, USCGC *Hickory* (WLB 212), Station Apra Harbor, and Marine Safety Detachment Saipan crews initiated assessments at the break of dawn.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Lt. J.G. Deb King leads an incident management team meeting at U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam on Oct. 11, 2023, as the assembled team discusses steps to address the impacts of Typhoon Bolaven. The group included members of FM/SG, Base Guam, DOL-X, USCGC *Hickory* (WLB 212), and U.S. Coast Guard District 14.

Under the direction of the regional Captain of the Port, the U.S. Coast Guard established an incident management team responsible for overseeing response efforts in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All communication systems, including the vital Rescue 21 radio towers, are fully operational. Crews and partners have verified the integrity of the aids to navigation constellation, confirming their readiness. The electronic aids to navigation (eATON) in Guam were activated as a precautionary measure before the storm, demonstrating a proactive approach to safety.

The crews of the three 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutters, homeported in Guam, expertly navigated storm avoidance by mooring in Yap and are now returning to their homeport. Station Apra Harbor small boats are also back in the water.

The National Weather Service canceled the tropical storm warning and typhoon watch, but residents should still anticipate southwest winds of 20 to 25 knots with gusts up to 35 knots and seas ranging from 11 to 16 feet. Additionally, there are warnings of dangerously large breaking waves of up to 12 feet in the surf zone through Thursday. These conditions have prompted a Small Craft Advisory and a High Surf Advisory.

Given these circumstances, the U.S. Coast Guard strongly advises everyone to avoid entering the water. Furthermore, due to significant rainfall in the past 24 hours and an ongoing flood watch for the Northern Mariana Islands, beaches and outfalls may likely experience inundation with runoff and potential debris.

The U.S. Coast Guard in the Marianas remains fully committed to responding to the impacts of Typhoon Bolaven, working closely with territorial and federal colleagues. The team's primary focus is ensuring the safety and well-being of the affected communities in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For the latest advisory information, visit:

- National Weather Service (NWS) Website: https://www.weather.gov/gum/
- NWS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWS-Guam/
- Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/
- GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/
- CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp
- Joint Region Marianas (JRM) Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam ***(USCG)***

FEMA urges residents in Bolaven's path to remain cautious

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As of 11:20am yesterday, Typhoon Bolaven was 75 miles northwest of Tinian and Saipan in the CNMI, with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. The storm is moving at 12 mph away from the islands. Bolaven will rapidly intensify later today and tomorrow into a Category 4 typhoon as it turns into the open ocean.

» Over 300 federal personnel on the ground in Guam, CNMI

All residents in Guam and CNMI should expect to experience potential flooding due to heavy rain and storm surge, along with strong winds. Typhoon warnings are in effect for Tinian, Saipan and Rota. Typhoon watches and tropical storm warnings remain in effect for Guam.

Residents and visitors in the path of the storm should follow instructions of local officials and remain vigilant as the storm passes. We encourage everyone that may be affected by Typhoon Bolaven to check on their neighbors, especially older adults or those who may need additional assistance.

Safety tips for residents

- Stay off the roads. Emergency workers may be assisting people in flooded areas or cleaning up debris. You can help them by staying off the roads and out of the way.
- Don't drive through flood waters. Almost half of all flash flood deaths happen in vehicles. When in your car, look out for flooding in low-lying areas at bridges and at dips in the road. As little as 6 inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Do not walk or wade in flood waters. The water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage. It may also include dangerous wildlife. Never attempt to turn off power or operate circuit breakers while standing in water.
- Avoid downed power or utility lines. Consider all downed lines live with deadly voltage. Stay away and report them immediately to your power or utility company.
- After a disaster, some food can spoil quickly. Throw away perishable food that has not been refrigerated or frozen properly due to a power outage, food that may have been in floodwater or stormwater and food with an unusual odor, color or texture.

The Biden-Harris Administration was ready for this storm, with federal assets on the ground, prepared to respond if needed. Additionally, on Oct. 8, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. approved emergency declarations for Guam and CNMI, which allows for federal assistance to supplement the territories' response efforts. FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell also spoke with CNMI Gov. Palacios and Guam Gov. Leon Guerrero on Oct. 8 to discuss preparedness efforts on the islands and offer support if needed.

Federal actions include:

- FEMA has more than 300 personnel on Guam and CNMI, including two Incident Management Assistance Teams that are working hand-in-hand with local officials.
- U.S. Coast Guard crews are staffing all necessary watch sections and actively working with on-island partners to be ready to conduct post-storm assessments and port reconstitution efforts once it is safe.
- The American Red Cross deployed a forward team of national disaster responders to Guam and are providing support to shelters in Guam and CNMI.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services stand ready to provide support as needed.

Visit www.Ready.gov or www.Listo.gov to learn more about how prepare for emergencies.

For more information on the Commonwealth's disaster recovery, please visit our website. ***(PR)***

CNMI TYPHOON BRIEFS

United announces delayed flights

As a result of Typhoon Bolaven, United Airlines announced that flights between Guam and Saipan on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, will be delayed. UA 174 will depart Guam at 7:30pm and arrive on Saipan at 8:20pm. UA117 will depart Saipan at 9:10pm and arrive on Guam at 10pm. This schedule is subject to change based on conditions on Guam and Saipan.

United encourages all customers traveling to and from Guam, Saipan, and Micronesia within the next few days to visit united.com or the United app to receive the most current information about their upcoming flights. Customers needing assistance with changes to their itinerary can also call 1-800-UNITED-1 (1-800-864-8331). ***(PR)***

BOG reopens CNMI, Guam branches, Familia Contact Center

Bank of Guam reopened their Hagåtña Headquarters, Familia Contact Center, and all Guam and CNMI branches at 12pm yesterday, Oct. 11.

To help customers bank how they move, Bank of Guam's Online, Voice, and Mobile Banking platforms are also fully operational.

"While Guam was spared from the worst of Typhoon Bolaven, our thoughts remain with our Familia in the Northern Marianas for their safety and wellbeing. As with past storms, Bank of Guam remains committed to doing what we can to help in the recovery efforts," said BOG president and CEO Joaquin P. L.G. Cook,

For the latest updates on Bank of Guam operations, follow @bankofguam on Facebook and Instagram or visit bankofguam.com. ***(PR)***

FHB reopens CNMI, Guam branches

First Hawaiian Bank reopened its Dededo, Maite, and Tamuning branches, starting at 10:30am yesterday, Oct. 11, following their temporary closure due to Tropical Storm Bolaven.

FHB is committed to serving its valued customers and will resume normal business hours. Additionally, FHB reopened its Gualo Rai and Oleai branches at 11am also yesterday, Oct. 11. ***(PR)***

Mobil reopens 6 gas stations

Mobil Oil Marianas has reopened six gas stations on Saipan—Mobil Chalan Kiya, Mobil Garapan, Mobil Koblerville, Mobil Kagman, Mobil Middle Road, and Mobil Susupe.

"The safety of our customers, employees, service station staff, tank truck drivers and the community remain our top priority. With the passing of Typhoon Bolaven, our teams will assess the situation and progressively reopen the stations when it is safe to do so," said Mobil in a statement.

Mobil also assured the public that it has sufficient fuel on Saipan to meet the needs of its customers and the community.

"We urge customers to buy only what they need and we appreciate your understanding." ***(PR)***

Public beaches closed

Public beaches have been closed due to hazardous surf and weather conditions. Department of Public Safety personnel will be enforcing closures. Thank you for your cooperation. ***(PR)***

CNMI Judiciary reopens today

As of 6am on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, Typhoon Condition I has been maintained for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as Typhoon Bolaven courses a departure from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Accordingly, the CNMI Supreme Court orders that all Judiciary facilities shall be closed to the public on Oct. 11, 2023. Regular business hours shall resume on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023. ***(PR)***

Gov. Leon Guerrero, JRM declare COR 4 for Guam

GUAM—Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman declared Guam in Condition of Readiness (COR) 4 at 10am yesterday, Oct. 11, 2023. Government of Guam operations resumed at 10am.

Leon Guerrero conducted an assessment at first daylight. All major thoroughfares were clear of any major debris and accessible. The community is reminded to conduct assessments around their homes in a safe manner.

Joint Region Marianas, Naval Base Guam, Andersen Air Force Base, and Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz conducted assessments and declared the All Clear. For all military base personnel, please report to work when it is safe for you to do so. For base patrons, please continue to visit the JRM Facebook page as well as each of the individual military installation social media pages for all of the latest information about the return to steady state and the availability of services.

As of 7am yesterday, Typhoon Bolaven was located 16.4 degrees north latitude and 144.3 degrees east longitude, about 205 miles north of Guam, moving north-northwest at 10 mph, with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph.

The typhoon watch and tropical storm warning has been canceled for Guam as of 8am yesterday. Damaging winds of 39 mph or more are no longer expected for Guam. Typhoon Bolaven passed between Rota and Tinian, staying just north of Rota, with a closest point of approach to Rota and Tinian of around 5pm to 6pm, Tuesday.

Stay out of the water

Everyone should remain out of the water due to life-threatening surf conditions. Hazardous to dangerous sea and surf conditions are still expected. High risk of rip currents is in effect. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from the shore into deeper water. Residents and visitors of Guam and the CNMI are advised to remain out of the water. Residents and visitors are also advised against venturing along trails close to the water or shoreline, as high surf can knock a person down and sweep them off beaches and rocks. These waves can be deadly, even for the most experienced swimmers.

GDOE school update

Guam Department of Education classes, to include after school sports activities and the ASPIRE program, will remain closed for the day. Additional information regarding classes resuming and make-up days will be issued at a later time. GDOE employees should report to work by 12pm today.

Shelter update

GDOE opened six emergency shelters for the duration of the storm.

The government of Guam, village mayors, American Red Cross, and the Office of Homelessness of Poverty and Prevention, are working to identify individual assistance needs as the shelters close.

GSWA resumes services at 10am

The Guam Solid Waste Authority resumed trash collection services and reopened its facilities at 10am yesterday. The following change in schedule is being implemented for this week only:

Revised collection schedule:

■ Tuesday Customers: Trash collection services will be provided today, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, beginning at 10am.

■ Wednesday Customers: Trash collection services are rescheduled for Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

■ Thursday Customers: Trash collection services are rescheduled for Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

■ Recycle Collection for Tuesday and Thursday Routes: The recycle collection for these routes will be completed on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023.

Customers are asked to place their trash carts curbside before 10am to ensure trash is collected. Additionally, all GSWA facilities, including customer service centers, residential Transfer stations, Layon Landfill, and hauler only transfer stations, will also resume normal business hours.

For more information, visit gswa.guam.gov or contact customer service at 671- 646-3111 or email customerservice@gswa.guam.gov.

GFD fuel container waiver rescinded

As of 10am the Fuel Permit Waiver has been rescinded. Normal policies and procedures are effective immediately.

Visit the following links for the latest information:

■ NWS Website: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

■ NWS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWS-Guam/

■ GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/

■ GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/

■ JRM Facebook https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam

■ AAFB Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Andersen36WG

■ NBG Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USNavalBaseGuam

■ MCBCB Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MCBcampblaz ***(PR)***

Shelters as of 9:30am:

Emergency Shelter	Current numbers	Max capacity	% capacity
AsTumbo Elementary School	104	182	57%
Machanaonao Elementary School	53	208	25%
Maria A. Ulloa Elementary School	11	285	4%
Upi Elementary School	2	336	1%
George Washington High School	28	100	28%
Talo'fo'fo Elementary School	30	311	10%
Total	228	1,422	16%

GUAM TYPHOON BRIEFS

Guam Community College reopens

The Guam Community College campus reopened to the general public at 1pm yesterday, Oct. 11. All regularly scheduled classes resumed at 2pm. ***(PR)***

GRMC resumed visiting hours Wednesday noon

DEDEDO, Guam—To ensure the safety of its patients, visitors, and staff, Guam Regional Medical City resumed normal visiting hours at 12pm yesterday, Oct. 11.

The Cancer Care Center at GRMC will commence operations at 10am also yesterday. Patients with scheduled appointments for other Specialty Clinics and elective surgeries in the Operating Room were requested to arrive at their designated times.

Non-essential GRMC staff should've reported to work at 10am, whereas clinical staff should adhere to their regular schedules. ***(PR)***

Guam Legislature resumes normal operations

The Guam Legislature will resume normal operations upon announcement of COR 4 for the island, which according to JIC 12 was expected at 10am yesterday, Oct. 11, 2023.

"*Dånkulo na si Yu'os Ma'åse'* and thank you to all those who worked to prepare for the storm, and to all those who worked during the storm to keep us informed, to keep our community safe, and to provide critical services throughout. I pray for continued safety as the Typhoon departs and as we work together in recovery and assisting our neighbors," the Guam Legislature said in a statement. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

A horrific day for Israel

October 7, 2023 is a day destined for multi-generational infamy in Israel.

On this Saturday, rockets and gunfire bore down and ordinary people were either murdered or snatched from their homes in the middle of a religious holiday, when most were praying or relaxing.

Aside from infiltrating scores of communities by land, sea and air in a massive operation on Israeli soil, the Palestinian Hamas militant group also uploaded hundreds of videos, now a potent weapon of war.

Many of them appeared to contain shocking footage of older Israelis led away from their lives, terror on their faces, or even of the bodies of younger Israeli women, shot and then their corpses desecrated for propaganda. A music festival near the Gaza Strip became a killing field, as attackers from the Hamas militant group with automatic weapons went "tree by tree," one young Israeli told the BBC, shooting anyone they could find. All easily watchable on your phone.

As numb as so many are to violence and cruelty, a weekend with some 600 dead in Israel, according to the Israeli government, still was a terrifying reminder of how cruel and barbaric the human race can be. Americans were likely among that number, it emerged Sunday. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority said that more than 300 on the Gaza Strip had been killed by Israeli air strikes launched in retaliation for the breaching of its borders.

Given Israel's longstanding belief in the power of deterrence, and in the associated need for retribution, those numbers are sure to rise. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke immediately of war. And war is clearly what lies ahead.

In Israel this past summer, we heard first-hand of disaffection with leaders from both ordinary Israelis and ordinary Palestinians. But for most Israelis, Saturday's events will render that moot, at least in the short term. And understandably so. Their country was brutally attacked and civilians butchered.

Joe Biden was right when he said "Israel has a right to defend itself and its people." In the wake of the Hamas action this weekend, it has no other choice.

Words like "normalization," much discussed this summer in the region, suddenly seemed risible.

Aside from its carriage of sorrow and despondency, this weekend was a reminder that that which simmers can rapidly return to the boil, even if the world's media have mostly been focused elsewhere.

The same could be said of Biden's administration, of course: As with the matter of immigration, the question of Israel and Palestine (let along Saudi Arabia) long has threatened to splay inter-party disagreement. Biden has preferred to project and protect Democratic unity and put primary focus elsewhere. Not so easy now.

For Israel, there are many questions for the coming days. Who paid for the Hamas weaponry and this level of logistics? What other countries were involved in all this death? How must the presence of so many hostages change its actions? How did the famously skilled Israeli intelligence forces, not to mention the political class, apparently not have an inkling of the imminence of so major an operation?

That appears to have been a staggering failure, but then the U.S. was taken by surprise on 9/11, too.

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Age alone shouldn't determine who runs for political office

By ANAND KUMAR
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Anand Kumar is a professor and the head of the psychiatry department at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

It was Robert Neil Butler, a psychiatrist and the first director of the National Institute on Aging, a branch of the National Institutes of Health, who first coined the term "ageism" in 1968. Butler, who was one of the pioneers in American geriatrics and gerontology, used the term to describe prejudice by one age group toward other age groups, most notably toward older age groups. He considered it a form of bigotry comparable to racism and social class discrimination. While ageism is a construct that applies across the life span, the term "older adult" typically refers to people older than 65.

Ageism has been characterized as one of the last socially acceptable prejudices and is pervasive across all domains including housing, job opportunities and, of course, health care. Negative stereotypes of the elderly are often widely promoted by the news media, and the elderly are frequently portrayed as frail, lonely, isolated and cognitively impaired. Ageism has a deleterious impact on the physical and mental health of the elderly and more broadly a corrosive impact on society at large, including policy-making and allocation of resources.

In the U.S., the number of people older than 65 in 2019 was approximately 55 million; the total is projected to reach 95 million in 2060. People 65 and older represented 16% of the population in 2019, a percentage that is expected to grow to about 22% by 2040. These are striking demographic changes, and we can ill afford to ignore the challenges posed by this rapidly growing group.

Contrary to popular stereotypes, the elderly are a heterogeneous group, and individuals age very differently across time. In 1987, the scholars John Rowe and Robert Kahn introduced the term "successful aging" to the medical lexicon. They defined successful aging as a multidimensional construct requiring three critical components: low probability of disease, high cognitive and physical functioning, and active engagement with life. It embraces medical, behavioral and social functioning as central to the successful aging process. It is estimated that about 10% of individuals meet these criteria for successful aging.

Another 15% are severely frail, meaning that they are physically weak and lose their ability to respond to stressors, mostly physical. This leaves the vast majority of older individuals somewhere in the middle where they face multiple challenges but are able to cope and function relatively well, albeit with some assistance. Cognitive trajectories vary widely across the elderly, and a subgroup of elderly are "cognitive super agers"—people who approach the end of their life span functioning as if they were 30 years younger. The heterogeneity observed in the clinical and social spaces matches the heterogeneity in molecular and cellular processes.

Age alone is therefore not a reliable marker of inevitable physical or mental decline and loss of autonomy.

Life expectancy at birth in the U.S. is approximately 76 years when both sexes are combined. In 1900, the life expectancy for Americans of all races and both sexes was 47 years. We have changed rapidly over time as a society, and older norms and expectations regarding retirement age, cognitive and other mental faculties, and functional ability are obsolete.

We are also in an election cycle, the so-called funny season in political life. Most polls show that a majority of Americans believe that old age hurts elected officials by making it more difficult to do the work their position requires. Presidential candidate Nikki Haley recently called the Senate "the most privileged nursing home in the country." While this may provide for a catchy sound bite, it does not reflect either the science or the social reality of the aging process.

More precisely, Haley's remark amplifies the prejudices of yesteryear and weaponizes aging without grasping or acknowledging the demographic and social realities of our time.

Increasing age is an important risk factor for dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Most patients with Alzheimer's are older than 65. However, most people who are more than 65 years old do not have Alzheimer's disease. Aging is associated with cognitive changes such as slow reaction time, difficulty with names and subjective complaints of memory loss. These issues do not inevitably lead to progressive memory loss and cognitive impairment over time. That interpretation would be a vivid extrapolation of the science. However, if there is a noticeable functional decline in the mental-cognitive space—meaning an individual is unable to perform at the intellectual level they were able to a few months to a year ago—it would provide a basis for a thorough medical exam that should include a physician exam, relevant laboratory tests and a cognitive exam.

See AGE on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

McCarthy devoured by the tiger he created

By GEORGE SKELTON
Los Angeles Times

Political columnist George Skelton has covered government and politics for nearly 60 years and for The Los Angeles Times *since 1974.*

Winston Churchill warned, "You cannot reason with a tiger when your head is in its mouth." Ousted U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy should have listened.

That's apparently what Churchill said, anyway. We do know for certain that actor Gary Oldman, playing the British leader, said it forcefully in the movie "Darkest Hour." Churchill was incredulous that anyone would consider negotiating with Adolf Hitler.

McCarthy's tiger that gobbled him up was a political animal hungry for attention, Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., supported by a small band of hard-right Republican mutineers. They complained that the GOP speaker reached across the aisle too often and dealt with the opposition party—you know, like the founders envisioned when they created our democratic form of government.

We're built for bipartisan compromise in this country or little that's important gets done in government—at least when the two sides are closely matched as they have been in Washington in recent years.

"I don't regret standing up for choosing governance over grievance," McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters immediately after being dumped last week. "Our government is designed to find compromise. I don't regret my efforts to build coalitions and find solutions. I was raised to solve problems, not create them."

This sounded like the McCarthy that Sacramento pols remember from 20 years ago—the widely respected, pragmatic, moderate young minority leader of the California state Assembly. Many have wondered whatever happened to that guy because the Washington McCarthy seems to have little resemblance.

But let's be realistic. Sacramento also has little resemblance to Washington, especially these days. More on that below.

McCarthy stuck his head in the tiger's mouth when he agreed to accept House rules that proved fatal. This was his price for securing enough right-wing votes to be elected speaker in January.

One particularly lethal rule allowed just a single House member to call for a vote to boot the speaker. Gaetz had insisted on the one-vote rule and ultimately used it to devour McCarthy.

There's another Churchill quote that's relevant to McCarthy's downfall. The statesman said: "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile hoping it will eat him last."

McCarthy made concession after concession in a desperate effort to appease GOP hard-liners and save his speakership. He fed the crocodile a steady diet of Democrats before getting eaten himself.

In the end, 208 Democrats joined eight Republicans—fewer than 4% of the GOP membership—in chomping down on McCarthy.

Would Democrats have saved McCarthy if he hadn't taken such cheap shots at them?

Placating hard-liners, McCarthy launched a frivolous impeachment inquiry against President Joe Biden. And bowing to MAGA Republicans, the speaker allowed a rare House censure of Rep. Adam B. Schiff, D-Calif., for his role in trying to uncover alleged collusion between former President Donald Trump and Russia. Schiff also had led the first impeachment prosecution against Trump. Schiff and other Democrats were knocked off committees.

On the good government side, McCarthy compromised with Biden and Democrats twice to prevent the U.S. from defaulting on its debt and to keep government doors open. That's what irked the GOP renegades.

On balance, didn't McCarthy deserve to be spared by Democrats?

"You can't blame Democrats for voting against McCarthy," says Jim Brulte, a former California state Republican chairman and GOP leader in both legislative houses. "When you're in the minority and the majority is going to war against itself, you sit back and let them do it."

Yes, that's politics. If you're given a chance to make the other side look inept and stupid, you seize it.

But longtime Democratic Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, who later became mayor of San Francisco, told me that Democrats "should have been fighting on behalf of McCarthy against those right-wing crazy people" because his successor is bound to be worse.

"Democrats must have been out to lunch when they took their position," Brown says.

But McCarthy acquired a reputation in Washington as a leader who couldn't be trusted. He'd make deals and break them. That's about the worst sin there is in a legislative body.

"We don't trust him. The members don't trust him. His word isn't worth anything," Schiff told reporters.

You never heard that said about McCarthy in Sacramento. He got along with everyone.

"Kevin was a team player," says Brulte, who was Senate GOP leader when McCarthy headed Assembly Republicans. "He was always trying to keep people together. He was a fabulous leader when I worked with him."

"Kevin threw his whole life into being leader," recalls political consultant Rob Stutzman, who was then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's communications director when McCarthy was minority leader. "He brought a sophistication of political leadership that I hadn't seen before, recruiting candidates and raising money."

But in Sacramento, McCarthy wasn't the speaker. He was the minority leader. And he didn't have to lead a rabid pack of ideologues.

"His experience in Sacramento didn't transfer over as well as it could have in Washington," notes Fabian Nunez, who was the Democratic Assembly speaker when McCarthy was minority leader. "I thought he was very formidable in Sacramento."

As Assembly minority leader, McCarthy benefited from serving with a popular Republican governor. Schwarzenegger enhanced McCarthy's relevance and influence.

In Congress as minority leader, McCarthy was smothered by Trump and felt compelled to incessantly kiss his ring. That earned him disrespect among Democrats.

Additionally, the nation is plagued and Congress is crippled today by political polarization that wasn't nearly as severe 20 years ago.

McCarthy made the history books by becoming the 55th speaker, achieving a career dream. Then it turned into a nightmare when he made even bigger history: becoming the first speaker to be fired by a vote of House members.

Ambition got the best of him. It prompted him to stick his head in the tiger's mouth.

No one should have to die for our fancy countertops

By MARIEL GARZA
Los Angeles Times

Mariel Garza is the deputy editor of the Los Angeles Times *editorial page.*

I renovated my kitchen two years ago, and now I can't help but wonder: Is someone sick or dying because of my design choices?

Among the decisions I had to make was which material would replace the cracked and stained yellow tile countertop that was installed in the 1950s. I admired the look of wood, but ultimately chose a sparkly quartz.

I am not the only person who has made this choice for a kitchen or bath redo. In recent years, quartz, or engineered stone, has become the most popular material for slick-looking countertops, and the multibillion-dollar industry is only expected to grow. Quartz isn't cheap, but its attractive appearance (the options for color and pattern are seemingly endless) and durability make it worth the extra cost. It's nearly impossible to burn or stain, which is a problem with wood no matter how well you maintain it.

Those are things I discussed with the experts at the tile and countertop suppliers. At no time did we talk about the hidden costs of the option, specifically that the people—mainly young Latinos—who cut engineered stone countertops are getting sick and dying from silicosis, a disease I had never even heard of.

Or that workplace health officials have known for years about the dangers associated with this line of work and rampant noncompliance with safety measures at work sites, but that it is largely unknown to consumers and even workers themselves. Or that dozens of people in the San Fernando Valley, where the engineered stone industry is concentrated, are currently sick with this incurable respiratory disease, which is caused by breathing in the silica dust released when quartz is cut and has had a local fatality rate as high as 20%. Or that at least 10 workers have died from silicosis between 2019 and 2022, and many others are severely disabled.

I only learned these things recently, like many other Times readers, from the story by Emily Alpert Reyes and Cindy Carcamo that put a spotlight on this condition and the industry—and sparked a discussion about what can be done to keep workers safe. Assemblymember Luz Rivas, D-North Hollywood, wrote on X that she had already begun working on legislation to be introduced next session. She said later that the story helped rally attention and support by labor advocates.

This epidemic of silicosis, as health experts have put it, has been on the radar of state and county health officials for some months after concerns were raised by physicians at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center who were seeing an uptick in cases. The state is working on emergency regulations for those who cut engineered stone, even though regulators acknowledge that it may not be possible to make this job completely safe for workers.

CAL/OSHA officials wrote in a May report that "engineered stone may be so hazardous that even properly designed engineering controls and work practices may be unable to prevent RCS [respirable crystalline silica] exposures and silicosis among the workers who cut, shape and polish it." Furthermore, many of the workers who are suffering from silicosis reported that they wore respirators and their workplaces incorporated safety methods, such as using water to keep dust down.

If there is no way to keep quartz cutters safe, should engineered stone fabrication be banned? Perhaps. That is one of the options that Los Angeles County health officials will explore in a report requested by Supervisors Lindsey Horvath and Holly Mitchell. Rivas said it is an option that she is looking at as well.

In many ways, the engineered stone situation resembles the issue of chrome plating, another industry concentrated in Southern California that is all about aesthetics (think spiffed-up cars with shiny chrome grills and rims) but comes with an extremely toxic byproduct. In that case, the dangerous substance is carcinogenic hexavalent chromium that metal-finishing operations release into the air at levels that are extremely unsafe for the neighboring communities. State air regulators this year finally approved rules that will require the industry to transition to safer compounds beginning in 2024.

It's good that lawmakers and regulators have taken notice of this terrible situation, but it does still feel like there's an important element missing—consumer education. If I had known that choosing quartz put workers' lives at risk, I would have picked another countertop that doesn't come with a side of guilt.

There is really no excuse to allow dangerous working conditions for a product that is used for purely aesthetic reasons when there are safer—and equally attractive—options.

AGE

From page 8

Age alone should not be automatically disqualifying for leadership roles, even to the nation's highest offices. The critical element is whether individuals have or lack the capacity to meet the challenges of the position they aspire to. That is the relevant question in this debate.

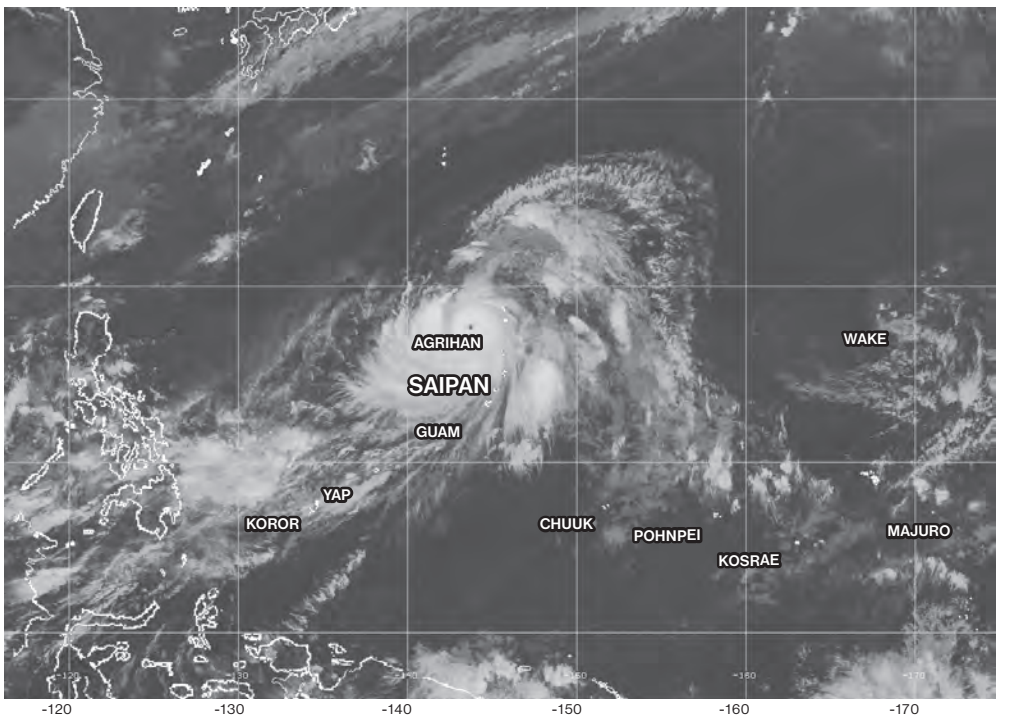
Everything else is a cacophony of background noise.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy
85 / 79°	86 / 79°	86° / 79°	87° / 79°	86° / 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:22 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Bolaven is northwest of Saipan this morning. Winds, seas, and showers will decrease as Bolaven continues to move away from the local islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:56 AM	4:32 PM	-
Friday	4:42 AM	5:06 PM	-
Saturday	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	-
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:15 PM	-
Monday	7:07 AM	6:53 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	63° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	63° / 41°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Sunny	77° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	69° / 55°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Paris	Showers	73° / 61°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Rome	Sunny	77° / 55°
Salem	Sunny	87° / 62°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	75° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 45°
Tokyo	Showers	70° / 59°
Washington, DC	Sunny	75° / 55°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:28 AM	Low Tide	0.74
5:55 AM	High Tide	1.59
12:20 PM	Low Tide	0.34
6:44 PM	High Tide	1.77

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Amazon antitrust lawsuit likely to be long, arduous journey for FTC

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is heading into one of its biggest sales events of the year—Prime Day— with a lawsuit hanging over its head that accuses it of preventing sellers from hawking their merchandise at lower prices on other sites.

The Federal Trade Commission's long-awaited antitrust case is the agency's most aggressive move yet to tame the market power of Amazon, a company that's become synonymous with online shopping and fast deliveries.

Under chair Lina Khan, the agency hasn't been shy about taking big swings against some of America's biggest companies and testing the limits of competition law to reverse what many of her supporters see as decades of weak antitrust enforcement. But that approach has also led to some high-profile setbacks, most notably in the FTC's bid to block Microsoft's takeover of Activision Blizzard and Meta's acquisition of the virtual reality startup Within Unlimited. The FTC is appealing the judge's ruling in the Microsoft case.

The Amazon case, which was backed by 17 states, marks a full-circle moment for Khan, who is finally confronting the company she scrutinized in an influential scholarly paper she penned as a Yale Law student. In the paper, which was called "Amazon's Antitrust Paradox" and released in 2017, Khan argued the prevailing way of looking at anticompetitive conduct by the impact it has on prices was insufficient in the modern economy. Instead, she pushed for a more progressive approach that examines how corporate concentration impacts the broader market.

AP

The Amazon logo is displayed at a Best Buy store in Pittsburgh on Jan. 23, 2023. The Federal Trade Commission's long-awaited antitrust case is the agency's most aggressive move yet to tame the market power of Amazon, a company that's become synonymous with online shopping and fast deliveries.

Two years ago, Khan was tapped to lead the FTC by President Joe Biden, whose administration has taken a tougher stance on antitrust enforcement. That same year, Amazon unsuccessfully sought to get her recused from agency probes against the company, arguing she was too biased.

Now, her agency must prove in court both that Amazon is a monopoly and is using its dominance to prevent competition from flourishing in the marketplace.

"If we succeed, competition will be restored and people will benefit from lower prices, greater quality, greater selection as a result," Khan said during a recent call with reporters.

A final decision in Amazon case will likely come years down the road, assuming the lawsuit isn't dropped under a new administration, dismissed by a judge or ends in a settlement akin to the one Amazon reached with European regulators last year. A similar lawsuit filed last year by the state of California is set to go to trial in 2026. The District of Columbia also tried to sue Amazon on antitrust grounds before, but its lawsuit was dismissed by a federal judge last year.

Experts say the FTC faces a few hurdles in its own case, including convincing the court which slice of the market Amazon is allegedly monopolizing.

In the 172-page complaint filed in federal court, the government paints a picture of an institution that strong-arms sellers and exercises monopoly power in what it calls the "online superstore market" and "online marketplace services." This isn't the entire U.S. e-commerce sector, of which Amazon is estimated to control about 40%. But rather, the agency is describing the types of single-destination online stores that offer a large array of products, and allows sellers to access a significant number of shoppers.

In a blog post responding to the lawsuit, Amazon General Counsel David Zapolsky accused the FTC of attempting to "gerrymander alleged market" to portray Amazon as something it's not. He said consumers buy over 80% of all retail products in physical stores and that Amazon was "just a piece of a massive and robust retail market" that offers options to consumers and sellers. Brick-and-mortar retailers, online stores and newer buy-online-pick-up-in-store options, he says, are all competing vigorously with each other.

Online, Amazon has been facing growing competition from traditional retailers including Walmart, and Chinese shopping sites Shein and Temu, which became popular by offering ultra-cheap goods. There are also platforms like Etsy and Shopify that are enabling small businesses to sell directly to consumers, and specialist retailers like Wayfair.

"Whichever way you look, there are companies competing with Amazon," said Neil Saunders, managing director at GlobalData Retail.

Besides the jargon around market definitions, the substance of the agency's complaint focuses on Amazon's growing fees on third-party sellers and its ramifications on consumers. It accuses the e-commerce company of squeezing sellers through various fees and employing a massive web-crawling apparatus that punishes them for offering lower prices on other sites. The FTC also alleges Amazon keeps sellers dependent on services that have allowed it to collect billions in revenue every year.

Zapolsky counters that Amazon—just like any store owner that doesn't want to promote bad deals—doesn't highlight listings that aren't competitively priced. He also said the services the company provides to sellers are optional.

The Amazon case comes as federal prosecutors and state attorneys general are in the middle of a 10-week trial trying to prove Google rigged the market in its favor by locking in its search engine as the default choice in a plethora of places and devices. That case was brought by the Department of Justice and marks the biggest U.S. antitrust trial since regulators went after Microsoft and its dominance of personal computer software a quarter century ago.

Maurice Stucke, a former senior advisor at agency during Khan's tenure, said even though there have been some notable antitrust cases, there hasn't been that much case law around monopolization in the past few decades, limiting the examples the FTC can draw from for its Amazon lawsuit. And even if the FTC wins its lawsuit years down the line, he said changes in the market could make it possible for Amazon to maintain its dominance without engaging in the activities the agency is alleging.

"Once you get to relief, it might be too little too late," said Stucke, who currently teaches law at the University of Tennessee.

For her part, Khan has dodged questions about whether the agency would try to break up Amazon. She said its focus right now is on establishing liability. The lawsuit, though, does call for "structural relief," which means the agency could—down the road—ask the court to change the way Amazon works in minor or major ways.

Overall, there has not been a lot of monopolization cases that have ended in a court ordering a company to divest itself, said Sean Sullivan, a professor at the University of Iowa College of Law who teaches antitrust law.

"Judges are trying really hard to do the right thing," he said. "But they're also conscious that if they make a mistake, that type of remedy is potentially very costly and would have massive economic ramifications."

X promises 'highest level' response on posts about Israel-Hamas war

The social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, says it is struggling with a flood of posts sharing graphic media, violent speech and hateful conduct about the Israel-Hamas war. But it has received a broadside of criticism, including from a top European Union official, questioning the adequacy of the response.

Outside watchdog groups said misinformation about the war abounds on the platform, whose workforce—including its content moderation team—was gutted by billionaire Elon Musk after he bought it last year.

Fake and manipulated imagery circulating on X include "repurposed old images of unrelated armed conflicts or military footage that actually originated from video games," said a Tuesday letter to Musk from European Commissioner Thierry Breton. "This appears to be manifestly false or misleading information."

Breton, the EU's digital rights chief, also warned Musk that authorities have been flagging "potentially illegal content" that could violate EU laws and "you must be timely, diligent and objective" in removing it when warranted.

San Francisco-based X didn't immediately respond to a request for comment about Breton's letter.

A post late Monday from X's safety team claimed it is treating the crisis with utmost effort: "In the past couple of days, we've seen an increase in daily active users on @X in the conflict area, plus there have been more than 50 million posts globally focusing on the weekend's terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas. As the events continue to unfold rapidly, a cross-company leadership group has assessed this moment as a crisis requiring the highest level of response."

That includes continuing a policy frequently championed by Musk of letting users help rate what might be misinformation, which causes those posts to include a note of context but not disappear from the platform.

The struggle to identify reliable sources for news about the war was exacerbated over the weekend by Musk, who on Sunday posted the names of two accounts he said were "good" for "following the war in real-time." Analyst Emerson Brooking of the Atlantic Council called one of those accounts "absolutely poisonous." Journalists and X users also pointed out that both accounts had previously shared a fake AI-generated image of an explosion at the Pentagon, and that one of them had posted numerous antisemitic comments in recent months. Musk later deleted his post. ***(AP)***

Star witness says FTX founder Bankman-Fried hoped to be US president someday

NEW YORK (AP)—Caroline Ellison, the tech executive who ran Sam Bankman-Fried's hedge fund while sometimes dating him, testified Tuesday that he directed her to commit crimes before his cryptocurrency empire collapsed last November. She also revealed that her former boss thought he might be U.S. president someday.

With Bankman-Fried watching from his courtroom seat, Ellison, 28, said at the New York City trial that she committed fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud and money laundering with Bankman-Fried and others as they stole from customers and investors in FTX, a company Bankman-Fried started, and lenders to his hedge fund, Alameda Research.

"He directed me to commit these crimes," she said of Bankman-Fried.

Repeatedly, Ellison made clear that Bankman-Fried was behind the biggest financial moves in his companies, to the point that bitcoins he created were sometimes called "Sam's coins."

She described him as "very ambitious" and envisioning eventually leading huge companies and using his money influentially, especially in politics.

He even thought there was a 5% chance he'd become president someday, Ellison said.

"When you say president, what are you referring to?" asked Assistant U.S. Attorney Danielle Sassoon.

"Of the United States," Ellison answered.

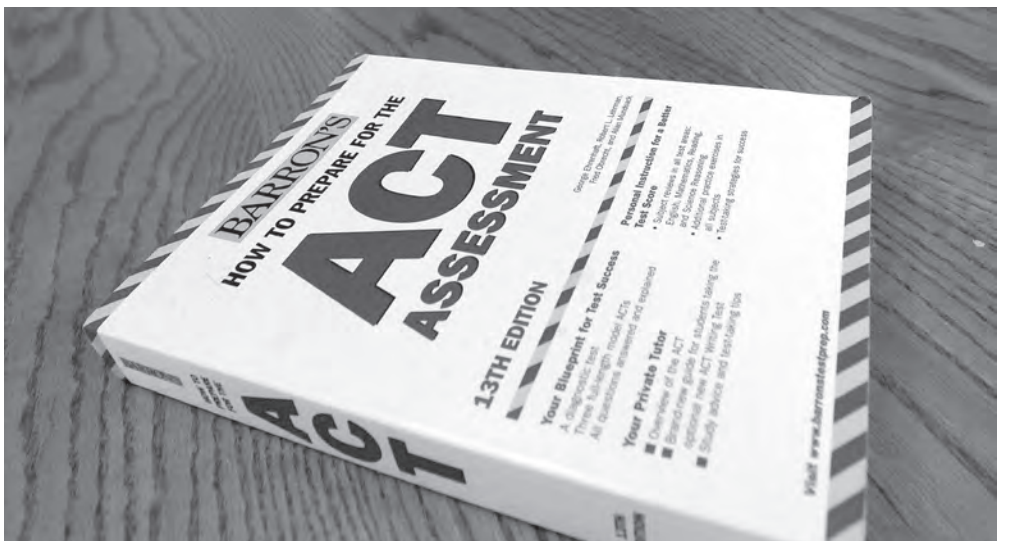
Shortly after Ellison's highly anticipated turn on the witness stand began, she was asked to identify Bankman-Fried in the courtroom. The bespectacled Ellison stood and scanned the courtroom for a long minute, at first unable to spot him, before gesturing his way with a flip of her hand and saying he was "over there wearing a suit."

The appearance of Bankman-Fried, who sat with his lawyers, has changed dramatically recently as he has lost weight and trimmed his well-known wild coif into a tightly cropped look more traditional among financial professionals.

Nation

ACT test scores for US students drop to new 30-year low

By CHEYANNE MUMPHREY
AP EDUCATION WRITER



AP

An ACT Assessment preparation book is seen, April 1, 2014, in Springfield, Ill. High school students' scores on the ACT college admissions test for 2023 dropped to their lowest in more than three decades.

High school students' scores on the ACT college admissions test have dropped to their lowest in more than three decades, showing a lack of student preparedness for college-level coursework, according to the nonprofit organization that administers the test.

Scores have been falling for six consecutive years, but the trend accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students in the class of 2023 whose scores were reported Wednesday were in their first year of high school when the virus reached the U.S.

"The hard truth is that we are not doing enough to ensure that graduates are truly ready for postsecondary success in college and career," said Janet Godwin, chief executive officer for the nonprofit ACT.

The average ACT composite score for U.S. students was 19.5 out of 36. Last year, the average score was 19.8.

The average scores in reading, science and math all were below benchmarks the ACT says students must reach to have a high probability of success in first-year college courses. The average score in English was just above the benchmark but still declined compared to last year.

Many universities have made standardized admissions tests optional amid criticism that they favor the wealthy and put low-income students at a disadvantage. Some including the University of California system do not consider ACT or SAT scores even if submitted.

Godwin said the scores are still helpful for placing students in the right college courses and preparing academic advisors to better support students.

"In terms of college readiness, even in a test-optional environment, these kinds of objective test scores about academic readiness are incredibly important," Godwin said.

At Denise Cabrera's high school in Hawaii, all students are required to take the ACT as juniors. She said she would have taken it anyway to improve her chances of getting into college.

"Honestly, I'm unsure why the test was ever required because colleges can look at different qualities of the students who are applying outside of just a one-time test score," said Denise, a 17-year-old senior at Waianae High School.

She's looking at schools including the California Institute of Technology, which implemented a five-year moratorium on the standardized test score requirements during the pandemic. Denise said she knows the school is not considering scores but she doesn't want to limit her options elsewhere.

About 1.4 million students in the U.S. took the ACT this year, an increase from last year. However, the numbers have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Godwin said she doesn't believe those numbers will ever fully recover, partly because of test-optional admission policies.

Of students who were tested, only 21% met benchmarks for success in college-level classes in all subjects. Research from the nonprofit shows students who meet those benchmarks have a 50% chance of earning a B or better and nearly a 75% chance of earning a C or better in corresponding courses.

Internal conflicts and power struggles now hallmarks of modern GOP

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—After Ohio Republicans bolstered their statehouse majority last year due to their dominating showing in the midterm elections, they split into rival camps over who should lead the lower chamber.

The division between younger, more impatient conservatives and more traditional ones was only settled when Democrats crossed party lines to end a standoff over who would become speaker of the Ohio House.

Since then, despite their power over all levels of state government, Ohio Republicans have been convulsed by infighting as party leaders censured everyone who had voted for their new speaker, Republican Jason Stephens. Amid the divisions, the Legislature managed to pass only 10 bills this year.

"Childish would be my word," said Republican state Rep. Sara Carruthers of her colleagues who persist in opposing the speaker or refuse to attend caucus meetings. "We're on the right path, doing the right things, wanting to get good legislation passed and he's helping them do that. And then, bam, it blows up."

From Columbus to Phoenix to the halls of Congress, the Republican Party has been stuck in a prolonged internal conflict, with power struggles and primary challenges becoming as much of a GOP staple as tax cuts and tough-on-crime rhetoric.

In Michigan, the chair of one county party told police he was "kicked in the crotch" by a rival during a party meeting. In Arizona, Democrats last year swept four statewide races after insurgent Republicans won their party's nomination. In Texas, the Republican attorney general, after successfully fighting off removal from office following his impeachment by the GOP-controlled state House, this week suggested he could request criminal charges against some in his own party for allegedly violating state privacy laws.

The party scuffling peaked last week when a small group of conservative U.S. House members banded with Democrats to depose Speaker Kevin McCarthy, leaving the post vacant just as war broke out in the Middle East.

The internal tussle over who will become House speaker—a position that is second in the constitutional line of succession to the presidency—exemplifies the perpetual chaos inside GOP ranks. McCarthy was the fifth member of his party to hold the speaker's position in the 19 years the GOP has controlled the House of Representatives since 1995, and the first to be ousted in a vote. In contrast, during the eight years Democrats controlled the House during that time, they had a single speaker, Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

Democrats have plenty of their own internal conflicts too—currently New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez has rebuffed calls from some inside his party to step down after his indictment on corruption charges last month, triggering multiple primary challenges. But Democrats have seen nothing like the perennial GOP internal clashes.

Republicans have had an aggressive wing of activists who have challenged the establishment ever since former congressman Newt Gingrich moved from being a congressional backbencher to House speaker in 1995, after he targeted members of his own conference for not being conservative enough.

"On the right, there's been a push, certainly since the Tea Party movement, to shift how Washington operates," said Jenny Beth Martin, a veteran activist who runs Tea Party Patriots Action, which has repeatedly clashed with the GOP establishment. "To get a shift like that to happen, you need to push against the people on your side who support the status quo before you confront the other side."

Many Republican politicians also cite a media environment, especially on the right, that rewards polarizing, grievance-filled rhetoric. On Monday, McCarthy blamed his ouster on "a few individuals that love a camera more than they love the American public."

But, in the end, the conflict comes from the party's base. Repeated polls have shown Republican voters are more opposed to compromise than Democratic ones, laying the groundwork for repeated struggles.

"You have a party consisting of constituencies that see themselves as under siege — white Christians who see a country that is less white Christian, working-class people who see a country where all advantages go to the college-educated," said Jack Pitney, a political scientist at Claremont McKenna College in California.

In contrast, Democratic constituencies—immigrants and their children, African Americans and younger college graduates—see themselves as having brighter prospects.

"It's the coalition of the ascendant versus the coalition of the resentful," Pitney said.

The fight played out nationally in 2022, as a wave of insurgent Republican candidates, often backed by former President Donald Trump, beat party picks in key swing state primaries, only to fall short on Election Day.

ACROSS THE NATION

Biden confirms Americans among hostages captured in Israel

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Tuesday confirmed that U.S. citizens are among the hostages captured by Hamas as he condemned the militant group for the "sheer evil" of its shocking weekend assault on Israel. "Our hearts may be broken but our resolve is clear," said Biden, who compared the brutality of the Hamas militants to that of the Islamic State terrorist group. He added: "Let there be no doubt. The United States has Israel's back. We'll make sure the Jewish and democratic state of Israel can defend itself today, tomorrow as we always have." The president coupled his unflinching defense for Israel with only a glancing reference to the suffering that innocent Palestinians are enduring from Israel's barrage of retaliatory fire on the Gaza Strip, where the Hamas attack was launched. That hardline approach could prove more difficult to sustain going forward if, as expected, the humanitarian crisis for the Palestinians worsens as Israel expands its military operation to root out Hamas.

Trump acknowledged penthouse size at 11,000 square feet, not 30,000 he later claimed

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump signed a document 30 years ago that gave the true size of his New York penthouse which was later listed as far larger on financial statements, according to evidence Tuesday at the former president's civil business fraud trial. The evidence appeared in an email attachment shown as Allen Weisselberg, the former finance chief of Trump's company, testified in New York Attorney General Letitia James' fraud lawsuit against Trump and his Trump Organization. Trump denies any wrongdoing. The attachment was a 1994 document, signed by Trump, that pegged his Trump Tower triplex at 10,996 square feet — not the 30,000 square feet later claimed for years on financial statements that were given to banks, insurers and others to make deals and secure loans. Weisselberg said he recalled seeing the email but not the attachment, explaining that the attachments were documents he already had on file in the company's offices. But in any event, he said, he didn't pay much mind to the apartment's size because its value amounted to a fraction of Trump's wealth.

Rep. Santos faces new charges he stole donor IDs, made unauthorized charges to credit cards

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Rep. George Santos stole the identities of donors to his campaign and then used their credit cards to ring up tens of thousands of dollars in unauthorized charges, according to a new indictment filed Tuesday. He then wired some of the money to his own personal bank account, prosecutors said, while using the rest to inflate his campaign coffers. The 23-count indictment replaces one filed in May against the New York Republican charging him with embezzling money from his campaign and lying to Congress about his wealth, among other offenses. In the updated indictment, prosecutors accuse Santos of charging more than $44,000 to his campaign over a period of months using cards belonging to contributors without their knowledge. In one case, he charged $12,000 to a contributor's credit card and transferred the "vast majority" of that money into his personal bank account, prosecutors said. Santos is also accused of falsely reporting to the Federal Elections Commission that he had loaned his campaign $500,000 when he actually hadn't given anything and had less than $8,000 in the bank.

Asia

Taiwan president says peace 'only option' to settle political differences

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Peace between Taiwan and China is the "only option," Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Tuesday, while strongly asserting the self-governing island's defenses against Beijing's threats to invade.

Tsai said in a National Day address that the international community views stability in the Taiwan Strait as an "indispensable component of global security and prosperity."

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has been increasingly sending ships and warplanes across the Taiwan Strait in an effort to intimidate the population of 23 million, who strongly favor the status-quo of de-facto independence.

Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party will seek to maintain power in elections next year against the Nationalists, who officially support unification between the sides that divided amid civil war in 1949.

"Let me reiterate that peace is the only option across the Taiwan Strait," said Tsai, who will step down after two terms in office. "Maintaining the status quo, as the largest common denominator for all sides, is the critical key to ensuring peace."

"Neither side can unilaterally change the status quo. Differences across the strait must be resolved peacefully," Tsai said.

Tsai also referred to Taiwan's recent launch of a home-built submarine as a major breakthrough in efforts to re-energize the domestic arms industry,

AP

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen delivers a speech during National Day celebrations in front of the Presidential Building in Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.

"We took a big step forward in our national defense self-sufficiency and further enhanced the asymmetric capabilities of our military," she said.

The ceremonies with marching bands from Taiwan, Japan and the U.S. also underscored Taiwan's split personality as a self-governing democracy whose national symbols and state institutions were founded on mainland China after the Manchu Qing dynasty was overthrown in 1911. The Chinese Nationalist Party under Chiang Kai-shek moved the government to Taiwan in 1949 following the takeover of mainland China by the Communist Party under Mao Zedong following a yearslong bloody civil war.

Now in the opposition, the Nationalists continue to support China's goal of eventual unification between the sides. Former president and party leader Ma Ying-jeou and other Nationalist politicians boycotted this year's ceremonies because the government used the term "Taiwan" rather than the official name of the Republic of China in English references to the occasion.

China cut off most communications with Tsai's government shortly after she took office in 2016. Vice President William Lai is favored to win the presidential election, potentially laying the groundwork for further tensions between the sides, which retain close economic and cultural ties despite the massive gap between Beijing's authoritarian one-party system and Taiwan's robust democracy.

Philippine diplomat witnessed Chinese ships' aggressive actions in disputed S. China Sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)A senior Filipino diplomat known for his past expletive-laced tirade against China joined a coast guard trip to the disputed South China Sea last week and saw Beijing's ships block and nearly collide with Philippine vessels, including one he was on.

Teodoro Locsin Jr. was on one of two Philippine coast guard vessels that escorted two Philippine boats to deliver food and other supplies to a Filipino marine territorial outpost in the Second Thomas Shoal on Oct. 4, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday. It was not immediately clear why the public disclosure of his participation in the trip was delayed.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. appointed Locsin, 74, as a special envoy to China in August, in addition to his role as the Philippine ambassador to the United Kingdom based in London.

"As special envoy, he is expected to be up to date on the matters that he will discuss with China and there is no better way to understand the West Philippine Sea issue than to see, for himself, what is happening in our own waters," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Teresita Daza said, using the Philippine name for the South China Sea waters nearer the country's western coast.

"We are confident that this firsthand information will allow him to effectively convey our concerns to China," Daza said.

As the Philippine foreign secretary under Marcos's predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, Locsin often lashed out with blunt language on social media at China's increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters.

When a swarm of Chinese boats converged in a Philippines-claimed reef in 2021, the then-foreign secretary demanded in a tweet that the Chinese get out, using an expletive-laced critique.

"What are you doing to our friendship? You. Not us. We're trying. You. You're like an ugly oaf forcing your attentions on a handsome guy who wants to be a friend; not to father a Chinese province," Locsin, a journalist, Harvard-educated lawyer and politician, said in a separate May 2021 tweet.

Locsin has not issued a statement since he witnessed firsthand eight hours of hostilities on Wednesday at the Second Thomas Shoal.

World

Israel strikes neighborhood after neighborhood in Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinians in the sealed-off Gaza Strip scrambled to find safety Wednesday, as Israel hammered neighborhood after neighborhood in the tiny coastal enclave in retaliation for the deadly mass incursion by Hamas militants and vowed an even more punishing escalation.

Airstrikes smashed entire city blocks to rubble, leaving unknown numbers of bodies beneath mounds of debris, and continued even as Hamas militants hold dozens of captives seized during their shocking attack into Israel over the weekend.

Israel has vowed an unprecedented offensive against the Islamic militant group ruling Gaza after its fighters broke through the border fence and stormed into the country's south, gunning down hundreds of Israelis in their homes, on the streets and at an outdoor music festival. They dragged an estimated 150 people—soldiers, men, women, children and the elderly—into captivity in Gaza.

As Palestinians crowded into U.N. schools and a shrinking number of safe neighborhoods, humanitarian groups pleaded for the creation of corridors to get aid into Gaza, warning that hospitals overwhelmed with wounded people were running out of supplies.

"There is no safe place in Gaza right now," journalist Hasan Jabar said after three Palestinian journalists were killed in the bombardment of a downtown neighborhood home to government ministries, media offices and hotels. "I am genuinely afraid for my life."

Israel has stopped entry of food, fuel and medicine into Gaza, and the sole remaining access from Egypt was shut down Tuesday after airstrikes hit near the border crossing.

The war, which has already claimed at least 2,100 lives on both sides, is expected to escalate.

Israel appears increasingly likely to launch a ground offensive into Gaza—a 40-kilometer-long (25-mile) strip of land wedged among Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians and has been governed by Hamas since 2007.

As exchanges of fire over Israel's northern borders with militants in Lebanon and Syria pointed to the risk of an expanded regional conflict. U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday warned other countries and armed groups against entering the conflict. The U.S. is already rushing munitions and military equipment to Israel and has deployed a carrier strike group to the eastern Mediterranean as deterrence.

"We will not allow a reality in which Israeli children are murdered," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said in a meeting with soldiers near the southern border on Tuesday. "I have removed every restriction—we will eliminate anyone who fights us, and use every measure at our disposal."

Israel stepped up its offensive on Tuesday, expanding the mobilization of reservists to 360,000. Israel's military said it had regained effective control over areas Hamas attacked in its south and along the Gaza border.

In a new tactic, Israel is warning civilians to evacuate neighborhood after neighborhood, and then inflicting devastation, in what could be a prelude to a ground offensive. Fighter jets returned multiple times to the al-Furqan neighborhood, striking 450 targets in 24 hours, the Israeli military said.

One blast hit Gaza City's seaport, setting fishing boats aflame.

Rescue officials in Gaza said "large numbers" of people were still trapped under the remnants of leveled buildings, with rescue equipment and ambulances unable to reach the area.

Palestinian Civil Defense forces pulled Abdullah Musleh out of his basement together with 30 others after their apartment building was flattened.

"I sell toys, not missiles," the 46-year-old said, weeping. "I want to leave Gaza. Why do I have to stay here? I lost my home and my job."

On Tuesday afternoon, Hamas fired barrages of rockets toward the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon and Tel Aviv. There were no immediate reports of casualties. On Tuesday night, a group of militants entered an industrial zone in Ashkelon, sparking a gunbattle with Israeli troops, the military said. Three militants were killed, and troops were searching the area for others.

Four previous rounds of Israel-Hamas fighting between 2008 and 2021 all ended inconclusively, with Hamas battered but still in control. This time, Israel's government is under intense pressure from the public to topple Hamas, a goal considered unachievable in the past because it would require a reoccupation of the Gaza Strip, at least temporarily.

"The objective is for this war to end very differently from all of the previous rounds. There has to be a clear victory," said Chuck Freilich, a former deputy national security adviser in Israel. "Whatever has to be done to fundamentally change the situation will have to be done," he said.

Hamas officials have said they planned for all possibilities, including a punishing Israeli escalation. Desperation has grown among Palestinians, many of whom see nothing to lose under unending Israeli military occupation and increasing settlements in the West Bank, a 16-year-long blockade in Gaza and what they see as the world's apathy.

Hamas may have been counting on the fight to spread to the occupied West Bank and possibly for Lebanon's Hezbollah to open a front in the north.

Zelenskyy at NATO defense meeting seeking more support

BRUSSELS (AP)—President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has arrived at NATO for Wednesday's meetings with alliance defense ministers to further drum up support for Ukraine's fight against Russia.

The U.S. is hosting a meeting of the Ukraine contact group to seek more weapons and ammunition for the war-ravaged country. NATO allies and partner countries will be waiting to hear precisely what kinds of military equipment Kyiv needs.

Following that meeting, the 31 allies and Ukraine will take part in the first NATO-Ukraine Council at this level. The forum was formally established in July as part of efforts to bring Kyiv closer to the alliance. It allows NATO and Kyiv to discuss issues of common interest and concern.

Environment

'WITHOUT WATER, THERE IS NO LIFE'

Drought in Brazil's Amazon sharpening fears for the future

MANAUS, Brazil (AP) —Communities dependent on the Amazon rainforest's waterways are stranded without supply of fuel, food or filtered water. Dozens of river dolphins perished and washed up on shore. And thousands of lifeless fish float on the water's surface.

These are just the first grim visions of extreme drought sweeping across Brazil's Amazon. The historically low water levels have affected hundreds of thousands of people and wildlife and, with experts predicting the drought could last until early 2024, the problems stand to intensify.

Raimundo Silva do Carmo, 67, makes his living as a fisherman, but these days has been struggling to simply find water. Like most rural residents in Brazil's Amazon, do Carmo typically retrieves water untreated from the biome's abundant waterways. On Thursday morning, he was making his fourth trip of the day to fill a plastic bucket from a well dug into the cracked bed of Lake Puraquequara, just east of Amazonas state's capital Manaus.

"It's dreadful work, even more so when the sun is hot," do Carmo told The Associated Press. "We use the water to drink, to bathe, to cook.
Without water, there is no life."

Joaquim Mendes da Silva, a 73-year-old ship carpenter who has lived by the same lake for 43 years, said this drought is the worst he can recall. Area children stopped going to school a month ago because getting there by river became impossible.

Eight Brazilian states recorded the lowest rainfall in the period from July to September in over 40 years, according to CEMADEN, Brazil's disaster warning center. The drought has affected most of the main rivers in the Amazon, the world's largest basin, which accounts for 20% of the planet's fresh water.

And as of Friday, 42 of 62 municipalities in Amazonas had declared a state of emergency. Some 250,000 people have been affected by the drought so far, and that number may double by year's end, according to the state's civil defense authority.

In the Auati-Parana Extractive Reserve, about 450 miles west of Lake Puraquequara, over 300 riverine families are struggling to get food and other supplies. Only small canoes with reduced cargo can manage the trip to the closest city, and picking a route through shallow water has pushed travel time from nine hours to 14. Moreover, canals to the lakes where they fish for pirarucu, the Amazon's largest fish and their primary source of income, have dried up, and carrying fish that weigh as much as 200 kilograms (about 440 pounds) along trails would be extremely burdensome.

"We run the risk of catching fish in the lake, and it arrives spoiled. So there is no way for us to fish," said Edvaldo de Lira, the local association president.

Dry spells are part of the Amazon's cyclical weather pattern, with lighter rainfall from May to October for most of the rainforest. That already low rainfall is being further reduced this year by two climate phenomena: El Niño—the natural warming of surface waters in the Equatorial Pacific region—and the warming of northern tropical Atlantic Ocean waters, said Ana Paula Cunha, a CEMADEN researcher.

Global warming, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, is the backdrop of these intensified phenomena. Rising temperatures increase the likelihood of extreme weather, although attribution of specific events to climate change is complex and requires in-depth study. Still, as global temperatures continue to rise and the effects of climate change become more severe, the drought and its devastating consequences may be a glimpse into a bleak future, experts say.

Average global temperatures soared to a record in September. Crushing heat waves have swept across large swathes of Brazil these past months, though it was winter. In its southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, devastating floods killed dozens.

Droughts have become more frequent in the Amazon's Madeira River, whose basin extends some 2,000 miles from Bolivia to Brazil, with four of the five lowest river levels recorded in the past four years, said Marcus Suassuna Santos, a researcher with the Geological Survey of Brazil.

The Madeira's level at Porto Velho is the lowest since measurements began in 1967. Nearby, Brazil's fourth-largest hydroelectric dam, Santo Antonio plant, halted operations this week due to the lack of water. It's the first time that happened since it opened in 2012.

Further north, in the Negro River basin, a different pattern has emerged. The Amazon's main tributary has had seven of its largest floods in the past 11 years, with the worst in 2021. But the Negro River, too, is headed toward its lowest-ever water levels this year.

"We are already living a scenario of an altered climate that oscillates between extreme events, either of drought or heavy rains. This has very serious consequences not only for the environment, but also for people and the economy," said Ane Alencar, science director for the Amazon Environmental Research Institute, or IPAM, a nonprofit.

"I think there is a very high chance that what we are living now, the oscillation, is the new normal," Alencar added.

Brazil's government has created a task force to coordinate a response. Ministers of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's government visited Manaus on Tuesday. Vice President Geraldo Alckmin promised food, drinking water and fuel to isolated communities, and said payments of the Bolsa Familia welfare program would be made in advance. Dredging on stretches of two rivers—Solimoes and Madeira—is in the works to improve navigability.

Heat, along with the falling rivers, is suspected in the deaths of more than 140 dolphins in Lake Tefe, around 300 miles east of Manaus, rocketed into headlines in Brazil and beyond, along with images of vultures picking at their beached carcasses. Excessive heat may have caused organ failure, said Ayan Fleischmann, a hydrologist at the Mamiraua Sustainable Development Institute.

Another hypothesis is bacteria, with abnormally warm waters acting as an additional stress factor.

"It is an unprecedented tragedy. Here in the region, no one had ever seen anything like it," said Fleischmann. "It was a shock for everyone."

Rainfall is forecast to be below average until the end of the year, according to the National Institute for Space Research. The drought's impact is already rippling beyond the Amazon's waterways, and into the rainforest.

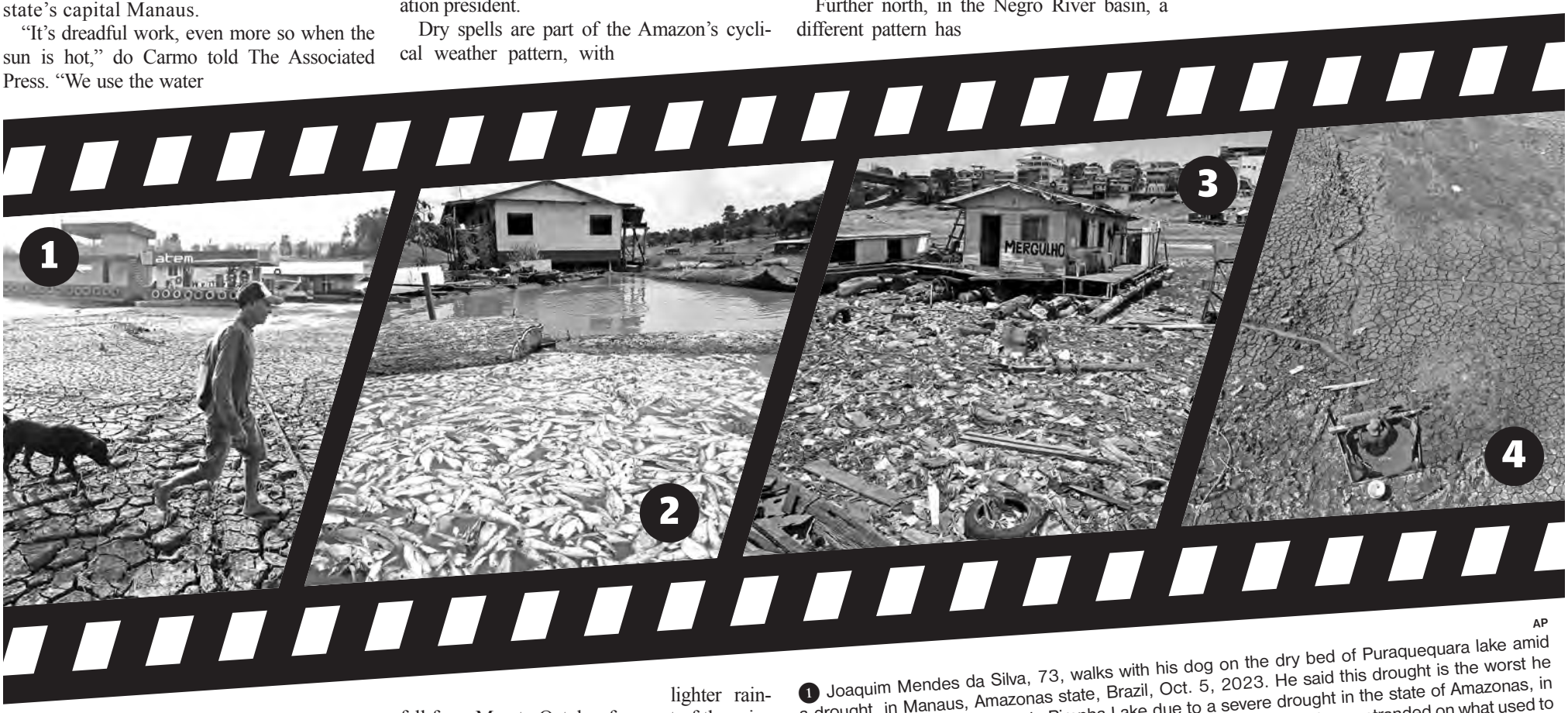
Areas of forest along the riverbanks accumulate a thick layer of leaf litter, which makes them particularly susceptible to wildfire, said Flávia Costa, a researcher at the National Institute of Amazonian Research.

In Amazonas state, nearly 7,000 fires were reported in September alone, the second-highest figure for the month since satellite monitoring began in 1998.

The resulting smoke is choking Manaus' more than 2 million inhabitants who are also experiencing sweltering heat. Last Sunday the city recorded its hottest temperature since regular measurements began in 1910.

The increased frequency of extreme weather events heightens the need for coordination between the federal, regional and municipal governments to prepare and create a system of alerts to mitigate impacts.

"From now on," Alencar said, "things will get worse."



AP

❶ Joaquim Mendes da Silva, 73, walks with his dog on the dry bed of Puraquequara lake amid a drought, in Manaus, Amazonas state, Brazil, Oct. 5, 2023. He said this drought is the worst he can recall. ❷ Dead fish float in Piranha Lake due to a severe drought in the state of Amazonas, in Manacapuru, Brazil, Sept. 27, 2023. ❸ Boys walk next to a floating home stranded on what used to be the water's edge of the Negro River, amidst a drought in Manaus, Brazil, Sept. 26, 2023. ❹ Isac Cicero Rodrigues digs into the dry bed of Puraquequara lake to obtain water amid a severe drought, in Manaus, Amazonas state, Brazil, Oct. 5, 2023.

Life & Style

‘Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour’ is seen to be a blockbuster

NEW YORK (AP)—Greg Marcus has been in the movie business for years but he never expected to be urging moviegoers to take out their phones during a film—let alone to be crafting friendship bracelets in preparation for an opening weekend.

But there the chief executive and chair of the Marcus Corporation is in a promotion for his theater chain headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, stringing beads together while humming “Shake It Off.”

Movie theaters are readying for an onslaught like they’ve never seen before, beginning Friday when “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour” debuts. The concert film, compiled from several Swift shows at Southern California’s SoFi Stadium, is expected to launch with $100 million, or possibly more. Advance ticket sales worldwide have already surpassed $100 million.

Swifties will descend. Dancing will be encouraged.

“This is different,” says Marcus. “Take your phone out. Take selfies. Dance, sing, get up, have a good time. We want to create an atmosphere.”

Concert films, of course, aren’t anything new. Just last month, the Talking Heads classic “Stop Making Sense” returned to theaters for a decades-later encore. But “The Eras Tour” heralds something new and potentially game-changing in the movie industry.

Two of the biggest stars on the planet—Swift and , in December under a very similar arrangement, Beyoncé—are heading into cinemas in first-of-their-kind deals made directly with AMC Theaters that circumvent Hollywood studios and which, for now, leave streamers waiting on the sidelines.

But how did the once declared-for-dead multiplex become the go-to place this fall a pair of stars previously at home on Netflix?

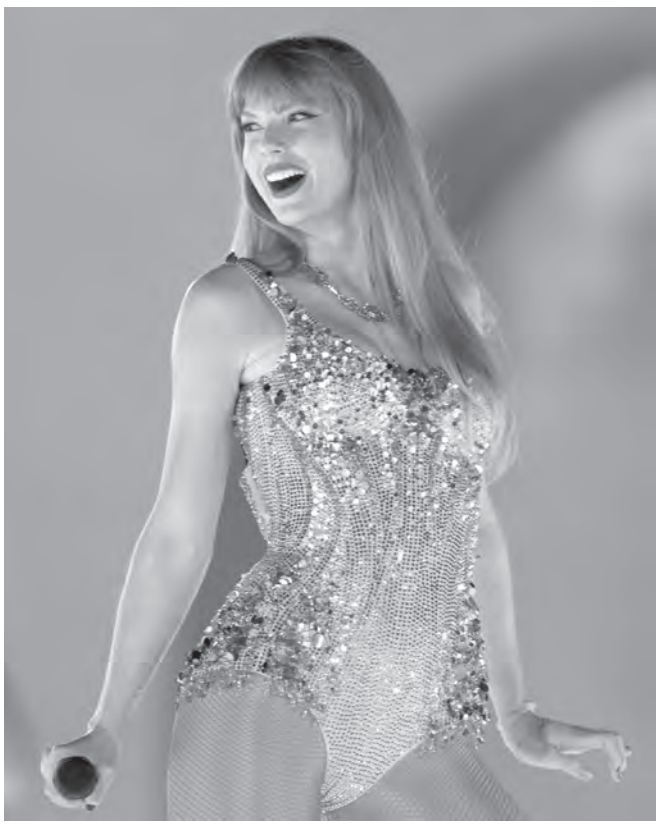
When studios began diverting some of their titles to streaming platforms, movie theaters began thinking harder about how they could fill their screens—a question exacerbated this autumn by an actors strike that’s led to the postponement of big releases like “Dune: Part Two.”

Movie theaters are increasingly not just a marquee of movie showtimes but a big-screen stage for a variety of visual media. BTS earlier this year released a concert film, with higher ticket prices and limited showtimes. The Metropolitan Opera has for years done popular live broadcasts in theaters.

Few acts can do what Swift and Beyoncé can. Their expected success is unlikely to be replicated. But “The Eras Tour” could be the start of an expansion of what, exactly, a movie theater can be. Think the Sphere, only much cheaper and in most towns.

“You could say we’re in the movie business, but really we’re in the getting-together-with-other-people business,” says Marcus. “The more we do of it, the more the customers will think about it and the more talent will go: This is something I could do.”

Swift’s camp was motivated to get the film out even as her stadium tour continues internationally. The tour, which is projected by Pollstar to gross some $1.4 billion, crashed Ticketmaster’s site, saw sky-high resale mark-ups and left many fans priced out.



CHRIS HASTON/PARAMOUNT+ VIA AP

Taylor Swift performs during “The Eras Tour” in Nashville, Tenn., on May 5, 2023. Swift is releasing her “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour” concert film on Oct. 13.

The movie, directed by Sam Wrench, would be a way for millions more to experience the Eras Tour. Adult tickets are being sold for $19.89,” a reference to her birth year and 2014 album, a re-recording of which is due out Oct. 27. That’s higher than the average movie ticket but several thousand less than many tickets to see Swift live.

It’s arriving uncommonly fast, too, just a little over two months since the SoFi shows. Speed was one reason Swift’s father, Scott Swift, is said to have sought out a direct deal with AMC. Swift produced the film, herself, and, with 274 million followers on Instagram, didn’t need a studio to promote it.

The pop star’s apparent relationship with Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce has only further brightened the spotlight on the movie. According to ad tracking firm iSpot, TV ads for the film ran only a few dozen times as of Oct. 6, including several spots during NFL broadcasts. (A Marvel movie, by comparison, might run several thousand TV commercials.)

Ticket sales will be split 43% with theaters and 57% shared by Swift and AMC—with the lion’s share of that going to Swift. The film will play exclusively in theaters for at least 13 weeks—longer than many Hollywood releases do now. AMC CEO Adam Aron has called the deal “a coup for AMC” on social media.

Both AMC and representatives for Swift declined to discuss the film’s release.

After a premiere in Los Angeles on Wednesday, there won’t be any advance screenings until the movie begins playing at 6 p.m. local time Friday. Most wide-release movies open with Thursday showings and Friday daytime screenings. It’s another wrinkle in a nontraditional release that’s challenging Hollywood norms.

“Innovation comes out of challenging times in this business. We’re seeing a lot of changes, some subtle, some not so subtle,” says Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore. “It seems like, right now, there are no rules when it comes to being successful.”

Dergarabedian believes the two concert films should help lift the North American box office to more than $9 billion in 2023, up from the $7.4 billion of last year and edging closer to the $11.4 billion of 2019.

“It really opens up the idea that other types of content can play really well in a movie theater,” he says.

Some of those changes have been facilitated by the abolishment of long-held antitrust restrictions governing movie distribution. After more than 70 years of regulating divisions between exhibition and distribution, the Paramount consent decrees were terminated in 2020 at the urging of the Department of Justice, with a two-year sunset period that ran until last year.

“Innovation had effectively been stunted,” says Makan Delrahim, the former antitrust chief at the Justice Department who proposed ending the consent decrees.

Delrahim believes “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour”—as a movie distributed by a theater chain, with nontraditional ticket prices—could “fuel new business models to save the exhibitors.”

“There will be more appetite to experiment different models for theatrical distribution,” Delrahim says. “The industry needs it and, frankly, so do consumers.”

Meanwhile, “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour” is poised to become the biggest concert film ever in about two days of release. Not accounting for inflation, 2011’s “Justin Bieber: Never Say Never” holds that mark with $73.1 million across its entire run. Accounting for inflation, it will be harder for “The Eras Tour” to catch “Woodstock,” which grossed $50 million in 1970, a total that translates to nearly $400 million today.

In Marcus’ theaters, like many other chains, there will be friendship bracelet stations. Sound systems have been modified for more of a concert feel. And while Marcus grants it will be strange to see an AMC logo before a film playing in his theaters, he doesn’t particularly mind.

“I’m just happy it’s there,” he says.

Husband volunteers wife to care for his ailing parents

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for 38 years. It has been a happy marriage for the most part; we rarely disagree or argue. The problem is, his parents are both very sick. His mom has Alzheimer’s, and his father was just diagnosed with stage-4 cancer—he’ll probably die within six months.

My husband wants us to sell our home and move in with his parents. He says that way we can take care of them both with the caregivers who are there most of the day. He works full time and says the burden will mostly fall on me. Should I agree to this?

We are empty nesters, so this will affect no one but my husband and me. I’m leaning toward yes. But my husband has two sisters and a brother, and I’ll be doing something these others won’t do for their parents. I have already taken care of my parents as well as a sick brother and buried them all. I have no family left. Please, give me some advice.

DONE THIS BEFORE IN TEXAS

DEAR DONE THIS: A LOT more discussion needs to take place before you agree to this or not. As you stated, your husband has siblings. How much responsibility are they willing to take financially, if not with hands-on caregiving?

Your father-in-law could live longer than six months, becoming increasingly dependent upon physical care. When he’s gone, your mother-in-law’s mental health will diminish, and she will become increasingly helpless until her demise. People have been known to suffer with Alzheimer’s for many years. If you sell your home and move in with the in-laws, you may have some money, but you will have no freedom—and, if this proves to be too much for you, you may feel trapped.

Having done this for your parents and brother, you know what you will be facing. Do not allow yourself to be railroaded or guilted into shouldering this responsibility. If you have a trusted friend or adviser—a doctor, lawyer or clergyperson—run this scenario by them. Do NOTHING until you have thought this through.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend I sometimes invite over for dinner. Invariably, when I offer him seconds, he’ll say “no thanks, but I’ll take it home.” The same thing happens if I offer him a beer or soda—“No thanks, but I’ll take it home.” It doesn’t feel right to me and I’m not sure how to express that I’m offering this NOW, not as a doggie bag. Or should I stop offering him seconds? He doesn’t have money issues, so he doesn’t need to do this. Do you think I’m overreacting?

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

BAFFLED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BAFFLED: Yes, I do. That he wants to take the food you prepare home to enjoy the next day (I presume—unless he intends it to be a midnight snack) is a compliment. However, since it bothers you, tell him that if he isn’t going to eat it with you, your offer is rescinded.

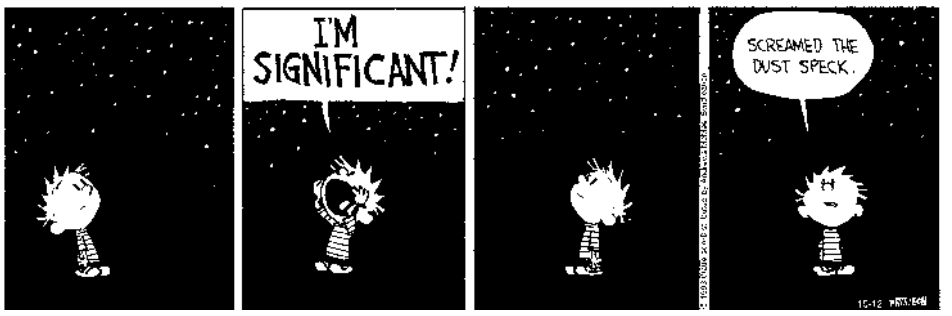
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



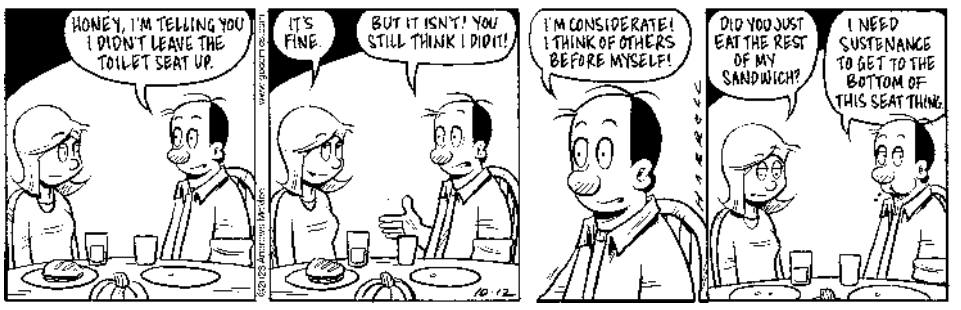
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHEN I WAS A KID, I WORRIED THERE WAS A MONSTER IN MY CLOSET
THEN I GREW UP, AND REALIZED THERE'S NOTHING IN MY CLOSET TO BE SCARED OF
EXCEPT THAT LIME GREEN LEISURE SUIT

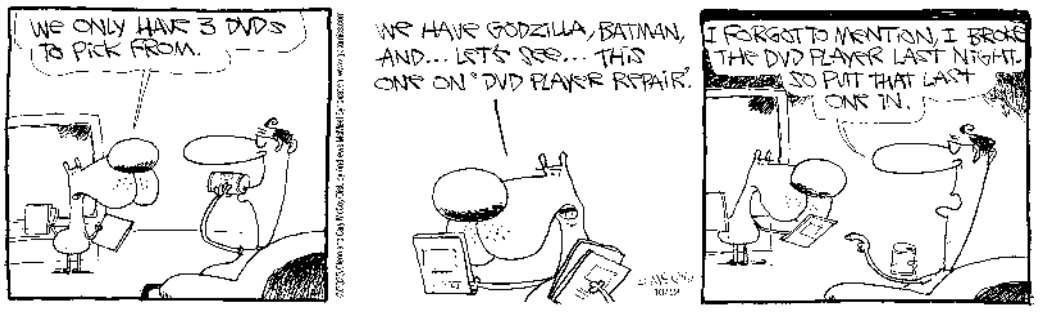
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HONEY, I'M TELLING YOU I DIDN'T LEAVE THE TOILET SEAT UP.
IT'S FINE.
BUT IT ISN'T! YOU STILL THINK I DID IT!
I'M CONSIDERATE! I THINK OF OTHERS BEFORE MYSELF!
DID YOU JUST EAT THE REST OF MY SANDWICH?
I NEED SUSTENANCE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS SEAT THING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WE ONLY HAVE 3 DVDs TO PICK FROM.
WE HAVE GODZILLA, BATMAN, AND... LET'S SEE... THIS ONE ON "DVD PLAYER REPAIR."
I FORGOT TO MENTION, I BROKE THE DVD PLAYER LAST NIGHT. SO PUT THAT LAST ONE IN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

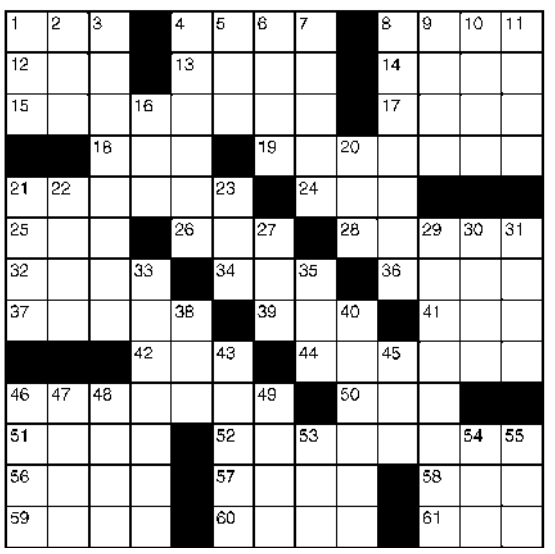
ACROSS
1 Dog's foot
4 Ale variety
8 Actress Sorvino
12 Previously
13 Jai —
14 Inventor Sikorsky
15 Gin or bridge, e.g.
17 Spruced up
18 Payable
19 Freaky
21 Hardships
24 Not 'neath
25 Lyricist Gershwin
26 Boston team, for short
28 French painter Edgar
32 Freebie
34 Entreat
36 Causeway charge
37 Leg joints
39 Pouch
41 Buck-eyes' sch.
42 Sorority letter
44 "Oh boy!"
46 Clerical leaders
50 Pester
51 Vicinity
52 Psychological trick
56 Conn of "Grease"
57 Part of A.D.
58 Big mouth
59 Viewed
60 Reporter's quest
61 Storm center

DOWN
1 Lobbying gp.
2 Istanbul honorific
3 Scrabble, for one
4 Beepers
5 Carte lead-in
6 Gentle soul
7 "Old MacDonald" refrain
8 Mosque tower
9 Disney CEO Robert
10 Den noise
11 Jocular Johnson
16 Twosome
20 Last letter in London
21 "Casablanca" cafe owner
22 Laundry appliance
23 Cry
27 Crosses (out)
29 "Well played!"
30 Too
31 Punch
33 Relate
35 "So frustrating!"
38 HBO rival
40 Realty listings
43 Money expert Suze
45 Label
46 X-ray doses
47 Pennsylvania port
48 Give up
49 Trig function
53 SSE's opposite
54 Has permission
55 Ram's mate

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	P	A		G	O	Y	A		D	D	A	Y
H	I	S		Y	V	E	S		W	A	I	E
A	M	S		M	A	I	H	I	E	S	I	S
Q	A	T	A	R			F	K	F			
			C	A	T	O		O	B	E	Y	S
M	F	S	S	T	F	N	T		S	T	O	P
A	L	I		S	E	T	O	N		A	L	A
M	A	R	I		M	A	J	O	R	T	O	M
A	L	I	A	S		P	O	S	E			
			T	I	S			W	F	A	R	S
M	A	R	K	S	T	I	M	F		P	A	T
A	I	F	F		F	T	N	A		S	I	A
O	I	D	S		T	O	O	T		F	D	T

Yesterday's answer 10-12



STUMPED? For answers lo today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18÷ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Josh Hutcherson, 31; Tyler Blackburn, 37; Bode Miller, 46; Hugh Jackman, 55.

Happy Birthday: Make yourself heard. Say what's on your mind and command attention precisely, calmly and quietly, and you will find your way to victory. Make decisiveness and mastering the art of communication your priorities. Getting along is half the battle. Know who you are dealing with, what you want and what you are willing to give in return, and everything will fall into place. Your numbers are 7, 18, 23, 25, 36, 39, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Speak the truth, do your own thing and don't make waves. Sticking to your game plan and finishing what you start will help you alleviate interference. Update your skills to avoid falling behind or missing out on a chance to advance. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be receptive to what others are doing and decide on your version. Your insight will give you the edge to build worthwhile connections. Your discipline and initiative will help you build a better life for yourself and those around you. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Refuse to let anyone sidetrack you. Consider what you enjoy doing most, and polish your skills to fit the path that grabs your attention. Refuse to let the past limit you or stand in your way. Embrace new beginnings and let go of regrets. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Slow down, examine what's happening around you and consider your options. Don't feel you have to bend or be a follower. Consider what excites you, and take the path that looks most promising. Let creativity guide you and discipline help you reach your destination. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Figure out what you want. An abrupt move will be costly. Set boundaries with people who ask for too much. Use your knowledge and apply logic to every situation you face. Be a good listener and protect your reputation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take more "me" time. Update your image, get fit and pay attention to your health and emotional well-being. Learn and apply new techniques to help you master the art of living a balanced lifestyle that builds strength of character, body, mind and soul. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put your energy where it counts and pitch in and help a cause or someone in need. Use your insight and experience to guide you where personal matters concern you. Refuse to let anyone bait you into an argument or take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* It's up to you to make things happen. Shift into high gear and turn your dream into a reality. Focus on reputation, popularization, futuristic ideas and producing a statement of what's to come. Pioneer your thoughts. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't give up when promoting what you offer is critical. Stand up for your rights, make yourself heard and put your skills to good use. Refuse to let someone else's vision throw you off guard or disrupt your plans. Trust in your ability. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Pay attention to what's going on in your community. Staying on top of matters concerning family, finances and emotional well-being will make a difference when dealing with colleagues, friends and relatives. Don't skip a beat when it comes time to say no. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Find out what's available before participating in something unfamiliar. Staying on top of what's new and exciting will help you keep your finger on the pulse. Do your homework and leave nothing to chance. Be smart when dealing with health, investments and legal matters. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Consider what's expected of you before you get involved in a partnership of magnitude. Distance yourself from anyone who may put your reputation in jeopardy. High standards are necessary if you want to bring about positive change. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, understanding and sensitive. You are methodical and responsive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						9	4	
5					1			
4		2	6		9			
6	3	4		1		7		2
		5			7	6	3	
				6			5	
					2	4		9
1	4			9		8		3
		8	3					

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	8	5	4	2	7	3	6	1
6	3	1	9	5	8	7	4	2
4	7	2	6	1	3	9	8	5
3	5	7	2	9	4	6	1	8
1	4	9	8	3	6	2	5	7
8	2	6	5	7	1	4	3	9
7	6	4	1	8	9	5	2	3
2	1	3	7	4	5	8	9	6
5	9	8	3	6	2	1	7	4

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE ERIE CANAL — Solution: 5 letters

S	R	G	R	E	A	T	R	A	N	S	P	O	R	T
M	Y	E	R	E	T	A	W	H	S	E	R	F	R	S
E	O	R	E	S	C	S	D	S	K	T	R	A	D	E
R	R	U	A	N	K	I	C	I	D	L	I	U	B	G
U	O	O	N	C	I	R	R	F	S	L	U	U	B	D
T	C	D	O	T	U	G	B	O	A	T	F	B	U	I
C	H	R	I	I	A	S	N	R	T	F	A	P	M	R
A	E	U	S	R	H	I	E	E	A	S	S	N	A	B
F	S	E	D	O	R	V	N	L	Y	T	I	C	C	N
U	T	E	R	S	I	O	O	C	A	L	A	H	H	E
N	E	E	K	R	O	O	C	T	E	R	A	S	I	W
A	R	A	G	A	I	N	E	V	G	M	E	T	N	Y
M	Y	N	A	B	L	A	A	O	T	A	E	O	E	O
S	L	A	T	N	E	R	N	Ⓣ	Ⓢ	Ⓔ	Ⓦ	N	S	R
A	R	C	H	I	T	E	C	T	U	R	E	E	T	K

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Albany, Architecture, Bridges, Buffalo, Build, Bulk, Cargo, Cement, City, Coast, Corridor, Cruise, Distance, East, Engineer, Fish, Freshwater, Great, Historic, Hudson, Lakes, Machines, Manufacture, Mountain, New York, Niagara, Ocean, Rental, River, Rochester, Rocks, Shore, Stone, Syracuse, Trade, Trail, Transport, Travel, Tugboat, Upstate, West

Yesterday's Answer: Delighted

The NEW **Treasury 54** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-856-232-2367)

Seager helps send Rangers to ALCS with sweep of 101-win Orioles

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Corey Seager is still going deep in Texas during the postseason. This time he is doing it for the Rangers, who are streaking through October.

Seager and Adolis García homered early, Nathan Eovaldi pitched seven smooth innings in another playoff clincher and Texas completed an AL Division Series sweep of the Baltimore Orioles with a 7-1 victory in Game 3 on Tuesday night.

The Rangers, whose loss at Seattle on the last day of the regular season made them a wild-card team instead of the AL West champion, have since won all five of their postseason games. They are headed to the American League Championship Series for the first time since 2011.

"We had our work cut out going on the road against Tampa and Baltimore. Just shows the toughness with this ballclub and the deal with having to fly to Tampa," said Texas manager Bruce Bochy, a three-time World Series champion with San Francisco who is now going to his first ALCS. "Trust me, they wanted to win one more game in the worst way. Didn't happen. ... They put it behind them."

Baltimore won an AL-high 101 games and was never swept in a series during the regular season, but the surprise AL East champions are done after a sweep at the most inopportune time. The Orioles have lost eight playoff games in a row over the past 10 seasons.

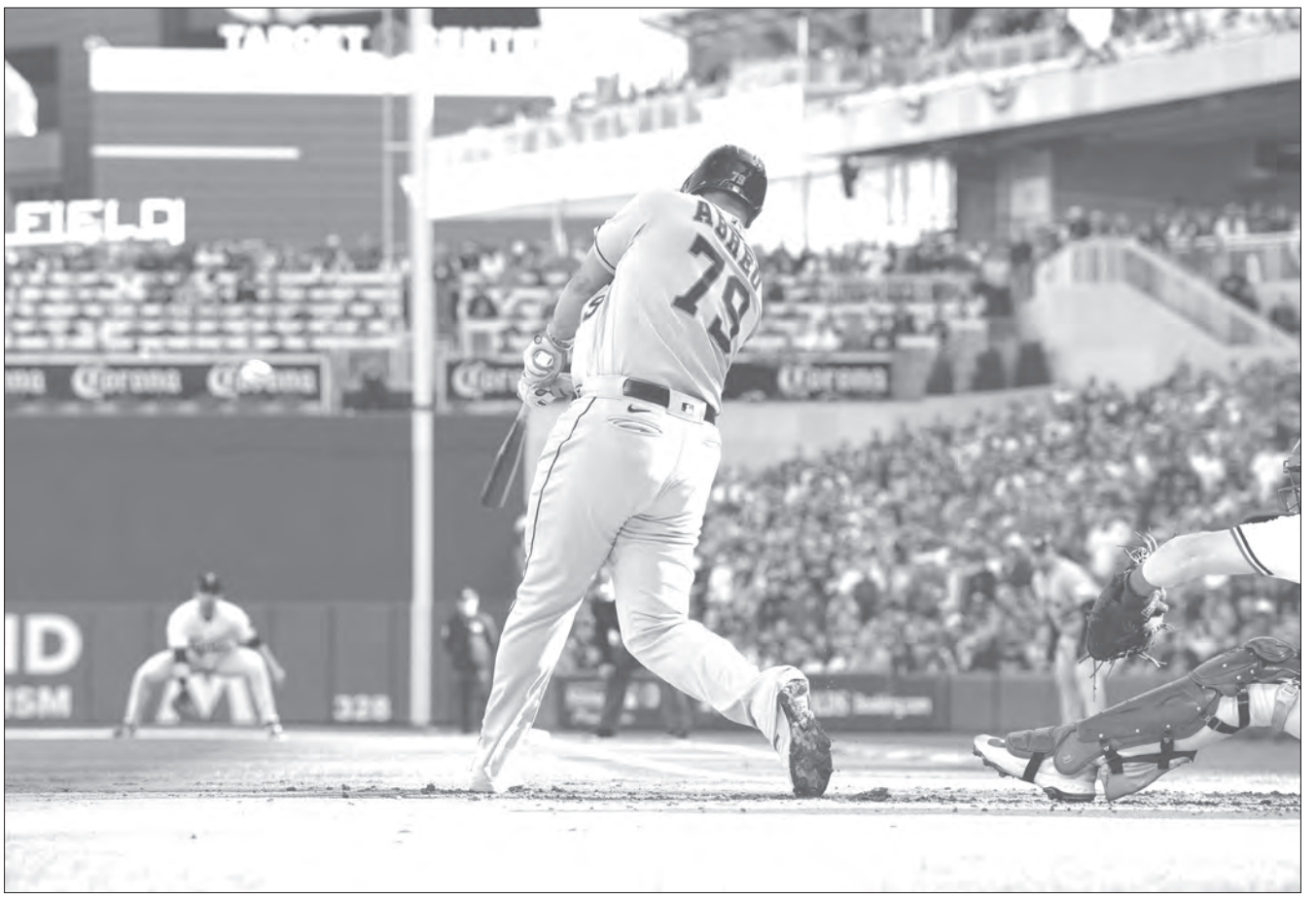
"Really proud of our group. They defied all the odds. Nobody gave us a chance," Baltimore manager Brandon Hyde said. "These guys played their butts off for six months. We just didn't play well for these last three, unfortunately."

Seager pulled a 445-foot drive into the right-field seats in the first inning, and García's three-run homer—one the All-Star slugger admired while taking a few slow steps out of the batter's box—made it 6-0 in the second to chase Orioles right-hander Dean Kremer, the Israeli-American pitcher making his first career postseason start.

"We've just been playing good ball," Seager said. "Can't say enough about what our pitching staff has been able to do."

It was the first Rangers playoff game at Globe Life Field, the stadium that was brand new in 2020 when it hosted much of MLB's neutral postseason during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Los Angeles Dodgers spent most of that October there, and Seager was the MVP in both the NLCS and World Series. A year later, when Texas was coming off a 102-loss season, the shortstop signed a $325 million, 10-year deal with the Rangers—and he occupies the same locker he did during that most unusual postseason with limited attendance.



AP

Houston Astros' Jose Abreu connects for a three-run home run during the first inning of Game 3 of an American League Division Series baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, in Minneapolis.

With a full house for his first home playoff game with the Rangers, after they had won the first two ALDS games in Baltimore following a Wild Card Series sweep at Tampa Bay, Seager sent the record sellout crowd of 40,861 into a frenzy when he connected in his first at-bat. He went deep seven times for the Dodgers here in 2020.

"That's what he does. He's done it before in the big moments," said Marcus Semien, the second baseman who signed with Texas for $175 million over seven years the same week as Seager's deal. "He picks his game up in the playoffs. It'll be really fun to see what he can do as we move on."

Nathaniel Lowe also homered for Texas, a solo shot in the sixth. Lowe had led off the Rangers' five-run second inning with a lineout to left, but that came on the 15th pitch of the at-bat after fouling off nine two-strike pitches.

"I saw a team that was really motivated," Bochy said. "The offense, everybody was doing something to contribute."

Seager is one of five Texas hitters who started for the AL squad in this year's All-Star Game. That is quite a lineup for Bochy, who was hired last offseason by Rangers general manager Chris Young, one of the manager's former pitchers in San Diego.

Also an All-Star in his first season with the Rangers, Eovaldi has won both their series-clinching games this postseason. Those are the right-hander's longest and best two starts since returning in September after missing seven weeks because of a right forearm strain.

Eovaldi threw 76 of 98 pitches for strikes without a walk while allowing only one run and striking out seven. He was serenaded with chants of his name as he walked off the mound after the seventh — and then was prodded out of the dugout by García to tip his cap to the crowd. Eovaldi also won the Wild Card Series clincher at Tampa Bay last Wednesday.

"I've never had a curtain call or anything like that, but our fans were bringing it all night long," he said. "When I walked out at 6:30 tonight, they were chanting, the 'Let's go Rangers.' I knew it was going to be a really good night for us."

José Leclerc got the final four outs, the first one with the bases loaded in the eighth when he induced an inning-ending groundout by pinch-hitter Aaron Hicks, who in the ninth inning of Game 2 had hit a three-run homer off him.

Leclerc pitched a perfect ninth, setting off celebratory fireworks inside the ballpark when he struck out Jordan Westburg to end the game.

Kremer's 1 2/3 innings marked his shortest outing all season. The 27-year-old wore a Star of David necklace as usual, with thoughts of extended family members in Israel, where war has been declared following a deadly incursion by militant group Hamas. His mother was at the game.

Kremer was 13-5 with a 4.12 ERA in 32 regular-season starts that included Baltimore's two clinching games: Sept. 17 to secure a playoff spot, and 11 days later for the team's 100th win to clinch the AL East.

"Offensively, we weren't at our best the last two, three weeks of the season. That carried into the postseason where we had guys scuffling," Hyde said. "They rolled in with a ton of momentum. I don't think we rolled in with a ton of momentum offensively."

ASTROS 9, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Late-afternoon shadows made the ball difficult to pick up, and Minnesota's Sonny Gray presented a tough opponent on the mound.

The Houston Astros just powered their way through and produced yet another October masterpiece.

José Abreu hit a three-run homer for Houston in a four-run first inning against Gray and piled on with a two-run shot in the ninth, carrying the Astros past the Twins 9-1 on Tuesday for a 2-1 AL Division Series lead.

Yordan Alvarez hit his fourth home run in three games and Alex Bregman had a homer and an RBI single for the defending World Series champions, who took charge from their first at-bat and moved within one win of a seventh consecutive AL Championship Series appearance. Astros starter Cristian Javier took it from there with nine strikeouts in five scoreless innings.

"It was kind of just pass the torch to the next guy," said Bregman, who has 16 postseason homers. "Put together a good at-bat and grind it out."

Game 4 is at Target Field on Wednesday. If the Twins force Game 5, it would be in Houston on Friday.

"This was one of the reasons why I signed with this organization, to be in the best situation and compete," said Abreu, who set his low with a .237 average this season, nearly 50 points below his career mark.

Splitting the first two games in Houston gave the Twins home-field advantage, and they sold out both games three days in advance. Johan Santana threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Joe Mauer, and the crowd the Twins credited for carrying them to a two-game sweep of Toronto in the AL Wild Card Series was roaring from the start.

The Astros were hardly going to be fazed by the environment. They went 51-30 on the road, the third-best record in the major leagues, and have made October games quite a habit since their run started in 2017.

"It's a very confident club, not a cocky club. We don't showboat too much. We just play," manager Dusty Baker said. "The guys have a knack of picking each other up."

Javier had a 4.56 ERA that was by far his worst in four big league seasons and failed to finish five innings in five of his prior 11 starts, but the Astros weren't concerned.

"He has a slow heartbeat. He wants the baseball," Bregman said. "He's a competitor and we have all the confidence in the world in him every single time he takes the mound."

The right-hander, who threw six hitless innings in World Series Game 4 last year to beat Philadelphia, lowered his career postseason ERA to 1.91 over 37 2/3 innings.

"Their guy did what I didn't do. He executed pitches in spots with runners on," Gray said.

With 13 misses in 16 swings at Javier's slider, the Twins flailed through the shadows in a feeble response to the early Astros explosion. Javier allowed one hit, a one-out double by Max Kepler in the first, but he stranded two runners in scoring position with consecutive strikeouts of Royce Lewis and Carlos Correa.

With five walks and one hit batter, the Twins had plenty of opportunities to catch up. They loaded the bases on walks in the fifth inning, but Kepler and Lewis ended the inning with strikeouts.

The Twins left nine men on base and went 1 for 9 with runners in scoring position. Correa, who has a hit in all five postseason games and is 9 for 19 with four RBIs, scored on Willi Castro's one-out single in the sixth. But Jeremy Peña made a diving stop at shortstop of a grounder rocketed by Ryan Jeffers and leaped to his feet to start a double play.

"It was a difficult day to hit, so them jumping out early was very, very important," Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. "Whichever team did that was going to definitely be in the driver's seat."

Jose Altuve greeted Gray with a single, and a one-out bouncer down the first-base line eluded Alex Kirilloff's glove for a two-base error. Kyle Tucker put the Astros on the board with a single. Then Abreu hit a 2-1 sweeper into the second deck for a 4-0 lead that took some buzz out of the ballpark.

"We were fighting an uphill battle as a team. I was fighting an uphill battle every inning," Gray said.

Gray gave up two home runs in a game for the first time in two seasons with the Twins. The previous multi-homer game against him was on Sept. 24, 2021, with Cincinnati.

The eighth major league pitcher since 2000 to throw at least 180 innings with eight or fewer homers allowed, Gray was the runaway leader in fewest home runs allowed per nine innings this year (0.391). He gave up eight hits and one walk in four-plus innings, with five runs—one unearned—and six strikeouts.

"Thankfully we were able to get the right swings across," Abreu said.

SINCE INJURING RIGHT HAMSTRING LAST JAN. 2

Zion makes first appearance in NBA game

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Zion Williamson had 12 points, five rebounds and five assists in 16 minutes during the Orlando Magic's 122-105 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans in the preseason opener for both clubs on Tuesday night.

It was Williamson's first appearance in a game since he injured his right hamstring in Philadelphia last Jan. 2. After missing his first two shots, he scored his first points on a crowd-pleasing, two-handed dunk. He later added a 13-foot running floater, a short turnaround and a layup to go with four free throws.

"He looked good. He's unstoppable. So, he's going to do what he wants out there on the court. It's just a matter of us getting our spacing right, playing with the right pace, tempo, getting stops and getting out and running," teammate CJ McCollum said. "But he's going to figure it out. He's going to be successful. We just got to make sure we continue to push the pace."

"Obviously, we want our best players to be able to play every night and this is a step in that direction. And it's an opportunity for the fans to see the work that he's put in—the work that we've put in collectively to try to be better this season."

The Orlando starters played the first few minutes of the second half. Wendell Carter Jr. finished with 18 points in 19 minutes. Paolo Banchero scored 12, highlighted by his driving, one-handed dunk between Williamson and Pelicans center Jonas Valanciunas. Banchero also grabbed six rebounds in 20 minutes.

Eleventh overall pick Jett Howard (Michigan coach Juwan Howard's son) scored eight points for the Magic, and No. 6 Anthony Black added two points. Magic coach Jamahl Mosley said prior to opening tip that Joe Ingles was getting a veteran night off.

Jordan Hawkins (UConn), who was New Orleans' top pick (14th overall) this summer, made his first 3-point attempt and finished with nine points on 4-of-14 shooting. Former Ohio State star E.J. Liddell, who was the Pelicans' second-round pick in 2022 but had a major knee injury missed all of his rookie season, played 17 minutes and scored two points.

AP

New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson (1) goes to the basket to slam dunk over Orlando Magic center Moritz Wagner (21) in the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game in New Orleans, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.

REAL MADRID 127, MAVERICKS 123

Luka Doncic played less than five minutes, scoring nine points in Dallas' loss against his former club Real Madrid.

Tim Hardaway Jr. led all scorers with 21 points for the Mavs, which also lost its two preseason games against the Minnesota Timberwolves last week in Abu Dhabi.

Doncic returned to Spain to a warm reception in a preseason game, receiving a standing ovation by the home fans and being honored by his former teammates.

The "Luuukaaa" chants were back in the Spanish capital five years after the star guard left for the NBA, and the Slovenian looked moved while watching his past highlights on the big screen before the game.

Facundo Campazzo, who was signed and waived by Dallas last year, led Madrid's late rally and finished with 20 points for the hosts. Doncic's former teammate Sergio Llull and Vincent Poirier scored 19 points each for the Spanish club. Doncic went 3 for 6 with one assist, scoring all of his points with 3-pointers.

HAWKS 108, CAVALIERS 107

Trent Forrest converted a three-point play with 1.1 seconds remaining to rally Atlanta over visiting Cleveland.

Forrest was fouled by Emoni Bates, a second-round selection in this year's draft, after Bates sank a 3-pointer with 11.1 seconds left to give the Cavaliers the lead.

Forrest led the Hawks with 13 points. Trae Young and Onyeka Okongwu scored 12 apiece. Kobe Bufkin, the 15th overall selection this year, scored nine on 4-for-11 shooting—1 of 6 from distance.

Max Strus, a playoff starter for Miami last season, opened the scoring with a 3-pointer for his first points with Cleveland. Isaac Okoro topped the Cavs with 19 points.

HEAT 113, HORNETS 109

Tyler Herro scored 22 points, 18th overall pick Jaime Jaquez Jr. added 13 points and seven boards and Miami held off visiting Charlotte in the opener for both teams.

No. 2 pick Brandon Miller rattled in a jumper with 33.7 seconds left in the first quarter for his first bucket for the Hornets. Miller finished with eight points on 3-for-9 shooting. He missed all four of his 3s, adding three rebounds and three assists. Late first-rounder Nick Smith Jr. had 11 points and five boards. LaMelo Ball, in his first action since February, totaled 17 points and seven assists in 22 minutes.

Jimmy Butler sat out for Miami. Cole Swider sank 5 of 9 from 3-point range, scoring 17. Thomas Bryant pitched in with 15 points and eight rebounds.

ROCKETS 122, PACERS 103

Alperen Sengun finished with 15 points, five rebounds and four assists to guide Houston over visiting Indiana in the Rockets' opener.

Veteran guard Fred VanVleet, who signed a three-year, $130-million deal with Houston, scored 10 points in his debut for the Rockets. He made 3 of 11 shots, 2 of 6 from beyond the arc, with four assists in 25 minutes. No. 4 pick Amen Thompson struggled in his first game, scoring nine points on 1-for-9 shooting. Thompson made 5 of 6 foul shots and grabbed nine rebounds. Cam Whitmore, the 20th overall pick, totaled 15 points on 6-for-10 shooting with three 3-pointers. Jabari Smith Jr. scored 14 with seven rebounds.

Aaron Nesmith led Indiana (0-2) with 18 points on 7-for-9 shooting. Bennedict Mathurin had 14 points, while Jalen Smith sank all five of his shots, scoring 11. Indiana first-rounder Ben Sheppard also scored 11. He was 3 for 7 from distance with four boards and four assists.

Houston's Dillon Brooks was ejected 4:33 into the game for a flagrant foul 2 to the groin of Daniel Theis.

WIZARDS 145, CAIRNS TAIPANS 82

Kyle Kuzma, coming off the best scoring season of his career at 21.2 points, scored 22 points and Jordan Poole added 18 points with four 3-pointers in his debut for Washington.

Danilo Gallinari, playing in his first exhibition since he tore the ACL in his left knee while playing for Italy, also scored 15 points—in just 16 minutes.

No. 7 pick Bilal Coulibaly made his debut for the Mystics and scored his first points on a dunk after a steal near midcourt midway through the first quarter. He finished with five points and six rebounds in 20 minutes.

The overmatched Taipans had nine available players due to sickness.

GRIZZLIES 108, BUCKS 102

Desmond Bane scored 21 points with four 3-pointers, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 17 points to help Memphis to its second straight preseason win.

Jae Crowder led Milwaukee with 14 points. Pat Connaughton added 13 points, Malik Beasley had 11 and Brook Lopez 10.

NUGGETS 115, SUNS 107

Defending champion Denver played stars Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray in a win over Phoenix in the Nugget's opener.

They both played 18 minutes and combined for 21 points.

Kevin Durant, Devin Booker and Bradley Beal all sat out after playing in the opener for the Suns.

CLIPPERS 103, JAZZ 98

Russell Westbrook made his return to the city that drafted him, when the SuperSonics made him the fourth overall pick in the 2008 draft. The team left for Oklahoma City before Westbrook got a chance to suit up in Seattle.

Westbrook and Los Angeles battled Utah at Climate Pledge Arena—with the Sonics' championship-winning coach Lenny Wilkens in attendance. Former Seattle Storm star Sue Bird and Megan Rapinoe also sat courtside.

Kawhi Leonard led the Clippers with 16 points and four 3-pointers. Paul George was held to three points on 1-for-9 shooting and Westbrook was scoreless in 15 minutes.

Jordan Clarkson scored 12 points for the Jazz. Lauri Markkanen, who emerged as surprise star in helping Utah contend for a playoff spot until the final week of the regular season, had 16 points and eight rebounds.

TRAIL BLAZERS 106, BREAKERS 66

Scoot Henderson, the No. 3 pick in this year's draft, finished with seven points and six assists in a debut start and Portland cruised past New Zealand in the Blazers' opener.

Henderson made 3 of 6 shots with a 3-pointer, playing 19 minutes. Kris Murray, the 23rd overall pick, scored three points with five rebounds in 18 minutes. Anfernee Simons scored all 14 of his points in the first half to lead Portland to a 48-39 lead.

Rayan Rupert, the Blazers' second-round selection this year, is playing for the Breakers. Rupert scored seven points in 21 minutes off the bench.

Brendan Malone, ex-Detroit Pistons 'Bad Boys' assistant and father of Nuggets coach, dies at 81

Brendan Malone, father of Denver Nuggets coach Michael Malone and a driving force behind the Detroit Pistons "Bad Boys" defenses in the late 1980s and early '90s, has died at age 81.

A Nuggets representative told The Associated Press on Tuesday that a family member confirmed his death.

"It is with tremendous sadness that we share the passing of longtime NBA coach Brendan Malone, who holds a special place amongst the organization and will be a Denver Nugget forever," the team wrote on social media.

Malone spent three decades as an assistant or head coach in the NBA, working for the Knicks, Pacers, Cavaliers, Magic, Raptors and Pistons. He also served as the lead assistant for his son with the Kings.

It was during his time as Chuck Daly's assistant in Detroit from 1988-95 that the elder Malone championed "The Jordan Rules," a set of defensive principles designed to curtail Michael Jordan's offensive prowess.

Although Jordan eventually found ways for the Bulls to surpass the Pistons, the strategy helped Detroit eliminate Chicago in the Eastern Conference Finals on the way to a pair of NBA titles in 1989 and '90.

Shortly after Michael Malone led the Nuggets to their first NBA championship last summer, the National Basketball Coaches Association awarded the elder Malone the 2023 Tex Winter Assistant Coach Lifetime Impact Award.

Michael Malone said during the Finals against Miami that his father tried to dissuade him from getting into coaching as a career. "He had lived it with six kids, and he understood the pitfalls of that job," Malone said. "I was just too dumb and stubborn to listen to him." ***(AP)***

Analysis: Eagles, 49ers clear front-runners in NFC; AFC is more jumbled

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The Eagles and 49ers are the clear front-runners in the NFC while the AFC is jumbled five weeks into the season.

San Francisco made the biggest statement so far with a dominant 42-10 win over Dallas on Sunday night.

The 49ers (5-0) have been the NFL's most complete team. They can win behind Brock Purdy's passing, Christian McCaffrey's running or by leaning on Nick Bosa and a stingy defense.

An offense that's loaded with Purdy, McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, George Kittle, Brandon Aiyuk easily handled one of the league's top defenses. The Cowboys couldn't do anything to stop San Francisco.

AP

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy (13) passes against the Dallas Cowboys during the second half of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

Injuries might be the only thing that can slow down the 49ers. They learned that last season when Purdy, who began the season as the No. 3 quarterback, tore an elbow ligament in the NFC championship game against Philadelphia.

The defending NFC champion Eagles (5-0) are still building their identity, but keep finding ways to win despite playing below the standard they set last season on their way to a Super Bowl appearance.

Similar to San Francisco, the Eagles beat teams multiple ways. They can do it in the air with Jalen Hurts throwing to A.J. Brown or other playmakers or on the ground behind Hurts, D'Andre Swift and a powerful offensive line.

The NFL's only two undefeated teams seem headed for a rematch in the conference title game with a Week 13 matchup to determine who gets the No. 1 seed. Of course, there's a long way to go until January.

The 49ers have a challenge on the road against Cleveland this week. The Browns (2-2) are coming off a bye so they've had extra time to prepare for San Francisco's dynamic offense. They'll need Deshaun Watson to return from a shoulder injury to have a chance.

The Eagles also have a difficult matchup on the road against the New York Jets (2-3).

There's a gap between Philly, San Francisco and the rest of the NFC, though the Detroit Lions (4-1) are playing up to preseason hype. The Lions haven't won a playoff game in 31 years, but it's a new era in Motown. The Cowboys (3-2) can't be counted out, either.

The AFC still goes through the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (4-1). Kansas City only has had one dominant win. The Bills (3-2) went from dropping 48 points in a statement win over Miami to losing to the Jaguars (3-2) in London.

The Dolphins (4-1) have been mostly impressive except for their loss at Buffalo. They have two measuring stick games upcoming at Philadelphia and at Kansas City over the next four weeks.

Cincinnati is the biggest wild card in the AFC. If Joe Burrow is healthy, the Bengals (2-3) can make a run. Jacksonville, Baltimore (3-2) and the Los Angeles Chargers (2-2) also are in the mix.

GET READY FOR 2024

The Vikings and Giants met in the playoffs last season, but both are off to 1-4 starts and should start looking ahead to next season. New York hasn't had a chance in the three losses without injured running back Saquon Barkley. Up next is a trip to Buffalo. The Giants are the biggest underdog on the schedule this week so it'll take a major upset for them to avoid a 1-5 start.

Minnesota has already equaled its loss total from last season and now faces four games without All-Pro wide receiver Justin Jefferson.

With Kirk Cousins eligible for free agency after the season, the Vikings could look to add draft capital by making some trades before the Oct. 31 deadline.

HOME-FIELD DISADVANTAGE

Road teams are 40-36 this season, excluding two international games. That's the league's worst home record through five games since 2019, when road teams were 43-34-1 entering Week 6.

Many teams have fan bases that travel well, giving some road teams an edge when they're inside a visiting stadium. Eagles fans filled the seats in Tampa Bay in Week 3 and in Los Angeles last week. The Philly faithful were so loud inside SoFi Stadium that the noise disrupted the Rams' snap count a few times.

Allegiant Stadium was filled with Packers fans for Monday night's game against the Raiders. But they didn't make a difference in Green Bay's 17-13 loss.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Colts rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson has already displayed dynamic playmaking skills, but he needs to learn self-preservation in the NFL. Richardson has been knocked out of three games, missed one and is expected to miss another this week because of a shoulder injury. Richardson has had a bruised knee, sore ankle, concussion and now a sprained AC joint.

Packers head into bye week needing to find solutions for their slumping offense

Packers cornerback Jaire Alexander was simply trying to explain why Green Bay's defense needs to do more.

But his comments underscored how much of a concern Green Bay's offense has become as the Packers head into their bye week.

"Yeah, I think at this point it's pretty obvious that the defense has to not give up any touchdowns," Alexander said after the Packers' 17-13 Monday night loss at Las Vegas.

"I think that's the part of being self-critical of our defense because the offense is pretty young and they're still figuring out their mojo. So the defense, we've got to do more to score and stop them from scoring."

The defense did plenty to help the Packers win a game Monday night. The offense just failed to do its part, which has been a common theme lately for a young group suffering serious growing pains.

After averaging 31 points over their first two games, the Packers have averaged just 17 over their past three. The offense's plunge explains why the Packers are below .500 for the first time this season.

Green Bay already had entered the season with the league's youngest roster before injuries took away two of their most proven offensive players.

Left tackle David Bakhtiari, who turned 32 on Sept. 30 and is Green Bay's oldest player, will miss the rest of the season because of the knee issues that have bothered him ever since he tore his anterior cruciate ligament on Dec. 31, 2020. Running back Aaron Jones has missed three of the Packers' past four games because of a hamstring issue.

Guards Elgton Jenkins and Jon Runyan Jr. and center Josh Myers were the only players on Green Bay's first-team offense Monday with multiple years of starting experience.

That first-team offense included two rookies (wide receiver Jayden Reed and tight end Luke Musgrave), four second-year players (wide receivers Christian Watson and Romeo Doubs and tackles Rasheed Walker and Zach Tom) and a first-year starting quarterback (2020 first-round draft pick Jordan Love).

"I never want to fall back on that because I just think that's such an excuse," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said Tuesday. "It is what it is. We're going to play with the guys that we have, and we believe in the guys that we have.

"We do have a lot of talent. I think we all knew there were going to be some growing pains along the way, but I haven't lost faith or belief in the group that we have. I just think we can do things better. I think we can coach better, and I think we can execute better." ***(AP)***

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the national team consists of mainly youth and young adult paddlers. He said despite that, "they are working really hard to represent the NMI well in the games. They will be competing against not only the best in the Pacific, but the best in the world in terms of outrigger paddling sports—they will make us proud regardless of their outcome."

Their training schedule, Andrew said, is three times a week off the waters of Kilili Beach working on technique and blending.

He said the strength of the team is their youth, "the team consists of active and conditioned youth and young adults. The [lack of] experience on a bigger stage could be their weakness but that can be overcome by their dedication, hard work, and conditioning."

With that, Andrew said he's "confident our national team will do its very best to make the CNMI's presence noticed at the games."

As for who to watch out for during the Games, Andrew said that "The paddling world knows that paddling athletes from the southern Pacific region are some of the best we have—those are the ones we will be looking out for. Especially paddlers from French Polynesian islands of Tahiti, New Caledonia, and Wallis & Futuna. But we should never discount the rest of the countries that are also training hard to represent their countries—the sport of paddling va'a is deeply rooted in our Pacific cultures so teams will come to proudly uphold and display their cultural identity."

Besides the Pacific Games, CNMI paddlers are kept busy out on the waters as NMNPSF member clubs are sending men, women, and junior girls/boys teams to the 23rd Annual Micronesia Cup paddling competition from Oct. 20 to 22.

The NMNPSF had just recently concluded its 2023 season and is expecting a better and more exciting 2024 season, especially when CNMI hosts the annual Micronesia Cup paddling competition. Andrew said, "Because of typhoons that hit us in 2015 and 2018, the last time we hosted this regional annual event was in 2012—and with new va'as from the Pacific Mini Games in 2022, we can't wait to host our paddling brothers and sisters from around the Asia-Pacific region."

SINAPALO

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from Jaydin Camacho. SES went on to extend their lead as Manuel Pinaula Jr. added two more goals to make it 6-1.

Only in the 27th and 39th minute did Camacho score two more for BSS, but it was too late then and time ran out to hand SES their only win of the two-day exhibition matchup.

The other game on Saturday was a loss to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, 2-7.

The Lu'ao's Vi'aria Mereb found the goal quickly just two minutes in, but GTC went on to score two goals for the lead. GTC's Damian Herman added two more, followed by another by Tamjeed Ullah, for a 6-1 game.

The second and last goal for SES came from Greenman in the 23rd minute and GTC went on to shut down SES' offense.

Last Friday in the Lu'ao's first game, they lost to Koblerville Elementary School, 1-3.

The Umangs' Patrick Jacoba scored two back-to-back goals, with an immediate reply by SES' Toves. However, KobES' Tickson Cosmes made it 3-1 right after and SES fell silently after that.

After, against San Vicente Elementary School, SES lost, 1-6.

The lone SES goal was made by Toves in the fifth minute. The Canaries' Derek Teregeyo scored two goals, while Amaru Younis, Keriana Kich, and Zayne Reyes bagged one each.

ACS

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at 27:16.46; and ACS' Barbara Wang who came in at 28:20.39.

Top 3 in the middle school boys individual standings are SIS' Quido Jambor with a time of 12:10.29; ACS' Raffy Cai at 12:14.82; and ACS' Daniel Yang with a time of 12:40.22.

The 3-mile course for the high school cross country wrapped around ChaCha Middle School, Kagman Elementary School, up to Forbidden Island Lookout, and back to the elementary school. The middle school, 2-mile course wrapped around the elementary and middle school campuses twice, while the 1-mile elementary school course wrapped around once.

Results of the middle school girls and elementary school division will come out in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

Up next is the cross country championships at the Saipan Country Club, with the date to be set later.

Seager helps send Rangers to ALCS with sweep of 101-win Orioles.

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Sports

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16 named to Pacific Games va'a team

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Winning paddlers of the recently concluded Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation 2023 season pose for a photo with their medals at the Kilili Beach last Friday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

With just a little over a month before the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands from Nov. 19 to Dec. 2, sports federations are completing their respective rosters for the CNMI delegation.

The CNMI National Va'a Team made up of 16 paddlers from the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation—seven men and nine women—have been chosen to paddle amongst the Pacific's best.

The men's team consists of Michael Peters, Mitchell Kukkun, Terry Ruben, Tyler Andrew, Yu Ling Chai, Oliver Igisaiar, and Willie Cabrera.

The women's team is made up of Ashley Pangelinan, Dayna Macaranas, Eva Weaver, Gracie Mendiola, Jenisha Dubrall, Sakurako Halstead, Vinalynn Oronigo, Guillerma Chong, and Momoko Halstead.

Head coach Jason Tarkong, assistant coach Richard Sikkel, manager Justin Andrew, and assistant manager Joseph Weaver are following the CNMI delegation as well. The coaches are able to compete if needed.

Andrew, who is also NMNPSF president, said

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Sinapalo soccer team win 1 exhibition match in ES league

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Sinapalo Elementary School's soccer teams hopped on a short plane ride to Saipan from Rota for four exhibition matches in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2023-2024 last Friday and Saturday.

Of their four matches, the Lu'aos flew away with a victory against Brilliant Star School, 6-3, last Saturday.

The Lu'aos drew first blood as Ibrahim Aguilar nipped the net four minutes into the game. Brilliant Star School sought to even up the score but the Lu'aos made it a 2-0 game by the 10th minute from Ethan Toves.

Two more goals were fired by the Lu'ao's Jhaeden Greenman for a big 4-0 lead, when finally, BSS was on the board in the 17th minute after a goal

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School soccer team poses for a photo during their two-day exhibition matches of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2023-2024 last Friday and Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

ACS dominates HS cross country qualifier finale

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School boys and girls high school cross country teams dominated the last PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 qualifier—the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View MIddle School last Saturday.

The Torchbearers made a clean sweep of the high school division with 15 points for the boys division. Second was Marianas High School with 34 points, and Mount Carmel School came in third place with 54 points.

The ACS girls in the high school division gathered 24 points for first place. Second place was KHS with 47 points.

The Torchbearers also claimed first place in the middle school boys division with 36 points. ChaCha Ocean View Middle School and Saipan International School had 59 points each.

In the high school boys individual standings, ACS' Jireh Wang came in first with a time of 20;41.91; a close second was ACS' Samuel Zhu at 20:56.91; and third was MCS' Victor Santos with a time of 21:00.63.

Top 3 in the high school girls standings are SIS' Kaithlyn Chavez who clocked in at 24:16.44; KHS' Pia Ngewakl

See ACS on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Agape Christian School's Samuel Zhang speeds to second place in the last PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 qualifier, the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Agape Christian School's Jireh Wang is first place in the high school boys individual standings of the last PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 qualifier, the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School last Saturday.